

Doctors demanding new gov't initiative

Jerusalem Post Staff

Talks between the striking doctors and the Finance Ministry appeared to collapse completely yesterday, with Dr. Ram Yishai, head of the Israel Medical Association (IMA), telling Health Minister Eliezer Shostak that it was "impossible" to continue the negotiations.

In a cable to the minister, Yishai said: "To our sorrow your attempts to make progress in the negotiations in their present form have failed. This is because of the stand of the Treasury and the Treasury's refusal to move from its original position. Therefore there is no possibility of continuing the talks in their present framework."

In their cable, the doctors demanded a meeting with the "full government negotiating team" including the ministers of health and finance, and called on the government to present suggestions for making progress in the talks on their pay demand. Finance Minister Yoram Aridor is due back in Israel today, after a visit for the Israel Bonds organization to the U.S. and England.

A meeting yesterday between the IMA and Treasury officials was mostly technical and no progress was reported. The strike has been going on for 52 days.

The strike is causing problems for the Israel Defence Forces, the IDF's manpower chief said yesterday.

Alul Moshe Nativ said that this

was the first strike he could remember that had affected soldiers. Operations are being postponed, he complained. And he said: "I've asked Dr. Yishai to attend to the matter and he has promised me he will. I hope within a few days our soldiers will get the treatment they need."

Nativ said that doctors staffing medical-appeal boards are either in conscript or reserve service and are not affected by the dispute.

However, he said, documentation needed by the boards for determining the medical profiles of reserve soldiers is in the possession of the health funds and has not been made available. This does not apply to soldiers in conscript service, whose files are held by the IDF and are therefore not affected.

The executive of the Histadrut's Clalit health fund yesterday began discussing ways to ease the plight of its members in outlying areas where no private doctors practise.

The discussions are to be continued next week. It was decided yesterday that although the IS600 that patients have to pay to the alternative medical stations will not be returned to them, it might be decided to honour the prescriptions and requests for laboratory and X-ray examinations written by the doctors.

The executive also discussed the possibility of increasing the reimbursement of fees paid by patients (Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)



An Israeli soldier yesterday guards Checkpoint Sofar on the Beirut-Damascus highway, the crossing point closest to Syrian lines.

3 more soldiers killed in Lebanon

By HIRSH GOODMAN
Post Defence Correspondent

Three Israeli soldiers were killed in Lebanon Wednesday night and yesterday in two separate incidents. Seren (captain) Menahem Reich and Segen (lieutenant) Zvi Makliss, both 21, were killed in a clash with terrorists who had tried to infiltrate from Syrian-controlled territory on Wednesday night. The third soldier, a truck driver, was killed by small-arms fire south of Rashidiya.

All four terrorist attackers were killed in Wednesday night's clash. Military sources said last night there was no connection between the two incidents and the tension between Israel and Syria. One

should not read too much into the fact that the terrorist squad that killed the two officers infiltrated from Syrian territory, they asserted.

The two were killed due to a certain lack of precaution. According to the reconstructed sequence of events, the four terrorists tried to infiltrate into Israeli-controlled territory at Majdal Bana, three kilometres southeast of Bhamdoun, at 10 p.m. Wednesday.

A clash ensued and the terrorists were mowed down almost instantaneously. But one of the four fired a volley of automatic fire at the Israeli squad before he died, killing Reich and Makliss.

In yesterday morning's incident

south of Rashidiya, on the Kesh Hamkra-Berut Road, the truck driver was caught in crossfire from light arms fired from ambush. Security forces were last night reported to be searching the area.

Since the formal end of Operation Peace for Galilee last September, 132 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Lebanon.

Observers said last night that they expect an increase in the number of terror incidents against both Israeli and international forces, given the improvement in the weather and the heightened political tension, as agreement at the withdrawal negotiations draws closer.

(Funerals — Page 2)

Israeli team at Halde talks are 'frustrated'

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Israeli negotiators returned dejected last night from a long day of talks at Halde, Lebanon. Instead of the usual reports of progress, they spoke of "frustration," "a bad day" and lack of agreement.

"We thought it could all be wrapped up, except for the Haddad issue, in a couple of weeks. But if this is how the Lebanese are going to act, it will take much longer," one Israeli negotiator said bitterly.

The Israelis accused the Lebanese of reneging, in effect, on oral agreements previously concluded. "When it came to putting the things down in writing," said the Israeli negotiator, "they simply backed off — and it was as though we'd never talked."

Among the important issues set back in this way, according to Israeli sources, were:

- The integration of the Haddad militiamen into the Lebanese Army "territorial brigade" that is to be deployed in the south;
- Joint Israel Defence Forces-Lebanese patrols in South Lebanon;
- Interim agreements on transit of persons and goods pending the conclusion of permanent pacts on aviation and other aspects of trade and transport after the IDF withdrawal;
- Arrangements for the liaison offices that each country is to set up in the other country.

Israeli negotiators acknowledged that the setback over the integration of Haddad's men was probably linked to the ongoing deadlock over the future of Haddad himself. Israel and Lebanon are still divided over whether Major Haddad is to be commander of the territorial brigade or hold some lesser post.

The negotiators on the Israeli, American and Lebanese teams had all expected the Haddad issue to be thrashed out on the higher policymaking level once they had wrapped up all the other drafting problems. But now it seems — at least on yesterday's record — that the residual drafting will take longer than had been hoped.

Israeli negotiators said they had been surprised at the Lebanese turnabout on some of the points. They ascribed it to Syrian pressure on Lebanon and to internal wrangling within the Beirut government. They said it was often evident that different members of the Lebanese negotiating team represented different elements or political forces.

The Israelis felt that the disarray and dissonance in the Lebanese team had increased markedly since the U.S. Embassy bombing.

The three IDF fatalities in Lebanon announced yesterday added to the anger and despondency of the Israeli negotiators. But they tried to be philosophical. "You must expect such ups and downs in a negotiation," one Israeli official insisted.

Mandelbaum lashes out against government's economic policy

Post Economic Reporter

Exports fell last year for the first time in Israel's history. Bank of Israel Governor Moshe Mandelbaum told the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday, launching an unprecedented scathing attack on the government's economic policy.

In his survey of the economic scene, Mandelbaum said a one-time large devaluation is inadvisable, since it would only fuel inflation even more. He added that further devaluation of the shekel against the basket of foreign currencies should be avoided.

Output of the business sector, he said, was unchanged in 1982 compared to the year before, but public expenditures showed a 2 per cent increase. Excess government demand may have fallen due to new taxation, but the difference was matched by the public's reducing its savings, with the result that there was no drop in consumption.

Mandelbaum concluded that there is no choice but to cut public spending if the economy's basic trends are to be altered. He also asserted that the linkage system is undesirable, because it keeps the economy from stabilizing itself and arms consumption. Nevertheless,

he sees the industrialized West's current recovery as holding out a chance for Israel to increase its production and exports.

Labour Knesset Member Adiel Amora said that the slowdown in devaluation cannot continue in the long term. He charged Mandelbaum with failing to sound all the alarm bells at his disposal, in light of the recently disclosed 27 per cent jump in Israel's balance of trade deficit.

Dan Tichon (Likud-Liberals) demanded a serious cabinet debate of the governor's recommendations, and his comrade Yitzhak Zayger demanded that there be a monthly float of currency-exchange rates without government intervention.

Imri Ron (Alignment-Mapam) asked Mandelbaum to provide more specific recommendations for encouraging employment in the productive sector.

The committee voted to adopt the governor's recommendations and expressed its amazement that the cabinet has not discussed his report. It demanded that such a debate be held promptly with Mandelbaum's participation.

The MKs also asked that the Bank of Israel submit a report semi-annually, regardless of the level of increase in means of payment.

160 shares down in price on stock exchange

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The stock market yesterday evoked unpleasant memories of the January collapse, as 160 shares went down in value and 39 of them could not be sold at any price. The General Share Index (banking shares excepted) fell by 2.97 per

cent. The oil sector was hardest hit — its index dropped by 4.85 per cent.

Turnovers were up and totalled about IS1.25 billion.

Market observers did not offer any convincing reasons for the steep decline.

Chinese kill 16 Vietnamese

BEIJING (AP). — Chinese frontier guards have killed 16 Vietnamese soldiers in two separate clashes in Yunnan province, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday.

They were the biggest border clashes of foot soldiers reported since China began shelling Vietnamese positions last Saturday in response to what it called "indefensible" Vietnamese armed provocations.

Xinhua said six Vietnamese soldiers crossed a border river into Chinese territory in rain and mist on Wednesday night, and Chinese frontier guards killed five of them in a clash outside a village in Jinping county. It said the sixth Vietnamese was wounded.

Two hours later, it said, a Vietnamese soldier tried to raid a post of the same frontier-guard company. The Chinese opened fire with rifles and machine guns and the invaders were forced to withdraw, leaving behind 11 dead, Xinhua reported. It did not mention any Chinese casualties.

China earlier reported firing "fierce" artillery bombardments into Vietnam on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. It called them a necessary counterattack after repeated Vietnamese shooting into China killed some border residents.

In an artillery duel on Saturday and Sunday, China inflicted "heavy casualties" on Vietnamese troops whose shelling blew up a Chinese hospital and school, Xinhua said.

Haddad: Lebanese Army collaborates with Syrians

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULLA. — Major Sa'ad Haddad yesterday accused Lebanese Army officers of collaborating with the Syrians and the PLO in attempts to hit American targets in Beirut, including Monday's bombing of the U.S. Embassy there.

"I was not surprised by the embassy bomb," Haddad said. "As far as I know, it was carried out by a PLO band, and a Lebanese Army unit enabled the booby-trapped car to enter Beirut and reach the embassy building."

"How do you want the Lebanese Army to defend us here in southern Lebanon?" Haddad asked rhetorically. "They were handed a clean city in Beirut, and now it is polluted with terrorists, who in-

filtrated from the Syrian-controlled zone to the western half of the city. With the help of Lebanese officers, they received money which allows them to act."

Haddad also mocked the prospect of the multinational force's protecting Lebanon. Only now are U.S. Marines being permitted to load their guns, he pointed out.

Responding to comments by Communications Minister Mordechai Zipori about not sacrificing the negotiations with Lebanon because of him, Haddad asked whether Zipori wants the terrorists to re-enter South Lebanon as well. "Zipori has a right to his opinions, and he is my friend," Haddad said. "But his is not the only opinion in the Israeli government."

2 cars blow up in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Reuters). — Iraq blamed Iran for two big car-bomb explosions that killed and wounded an undisclosed number of persons in central Baghdad yesterday, and a government minister said the attacks will be avenged.

Iraq's culture and Information minister, Latif Nassif Al-Jassem, was quoted by the official Iraqi news agency as saying: "The criminal Iranian regime and its supporters will shoulder the full responsibility of the consequences... Revenge for those citizens (killed) will be taken."

Witnesses said the blasts, which they described as big, occurred within about 90 minutes of each other.

The first was in the Salhiya area, where the Baghdad broadcasting building is situated. Radio and television programmes were not affected. The second blast was in Alwiyah, which includes five-star hotels, cinemas and fashionable restaurants.

Iraq announced that its navy jets attacked and destroyed an Iranian vessel yesterday near the leaking Iranian offshore Nowruz oilfield in the northeastern corner of the Persian Gulf.

A war communique broadcast by Baghdad Radio said the "Iranian naval target" was seen approaching the Nowruz oilfield, where oil wells damaged in earlier Iraqi attacks are spilling thousands of barrels of crude oil daily into the gulf.

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Peres' hint on early elections causes stir

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — What's behind about Chairman Shimon Peres' statement yesterday in favour of early elections? This question was asked by all the major parties almost as soon as news of Peres' comments came from Kibbutz Mikim, where he was addressing delegates at the United Kibbutz Movement's convention. (See p. 2) The chief question being asked is whether Peres' remarks signal a change of heart in the Labour camp

that may lead, after all, to early general elections — possibly next autumn in conjunction with the municipal elections scheduled for October 25.

The Likud has been eager for early elections, having had its hopes boosted by a very strong showing in the opinion polls. Its problem is that a parliamentary majority is needed to reschedule elections. Until now, Labour was against early elections, having lagged considerably behind in the various polls, and the Likud's own coalition partners, fearing that

they would be gobbled up by the Likud in the event of elections, were also opposed. This deprived the Likud of any hope of mustering a majority for early elections.

Most informed circles in Labour yesterday could not be certain that a change in Labour's stand is really upon us. Sources close to Peres, however, did not rule out such a move. They told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that Peres may indeed decide that early elections are inevitable and that it will be in his party's interest not to appear to be

afraid of the voters.

The sources also noted, however, that Peres has in the recent past said a few times that he is not opposed to going to the polls. However, on those occasions he was voicing a personal opinion, and made it clear that his party will not necessarily back him and move for early elections.

Although yesterday's reference to early elections was part of an effort to get his party to agree, it might be in much the same vein as his earlier

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

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FRANKFURT	10 20	18	64	64	Cloudy
GENOVA	3 37	13	55	55	Clear
HELSINKI	5 41	10	50	50	Cloudy
HONG KONG	21 28	8	47	47	Clear
JERUSALEM	10 20	23	73	73	Clear
LONDON	7 15	12	54	54	Clear
MADRID	8 16	13	55	55	Cloudy
MONTREAL	1 34	5	41	41	Rain
NEW YORK	2 36	9	48	48	Clear
OSLO	2 36	9	48	48	Clear
PARIS	8 16	13	55	55	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	20 28	25	77	77	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	4 39	12	54	54	Clear
STOCKHOLM	11 52	17	63	63	Cloudy
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The weather report is unavailable today due to a strike at the meteorological centre.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The first prize for the best advertising campaign was awarded yesterday by Olat, the publication of the Advertisers Association, to Robert Arovo for the Tel-Arovo agency's campaign promoting the Nofim garden city in Samaria. The award was made at the Association's annual dinner at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv.

The President of the Manufacturers Association, Eli Hurvitz, will address the Haifa Maritime and Economics Club at the Zion Hotel, 1 p.m. today. Table reservations by phone, 537766.

Memorial at Auschwitz

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A memorial service, attended by about 15,000 persons, among them Israelis and other Jews from all over the world, was held yesterday afternoon at the site of the Auschwitz death camp, a correspondent for Gali Zahal, the Israel Defence Forces radio, reported from Auschwitz.

But, the World Jewish Congress angrily withdrew from the event after what a spokesman called "a week of provocations and manipulations."

The organizers of the service tried to prevent the Israeli delegation from approaching the monument there, carrying the Israeli flag. After an exchange of words, the Israelis laid their wreath at the base of the monument.

Yad Vashem director Yitzhak Arad told Gali Zahal yesterday that during a recent visit to Poland, he met with Archbishop Jozef Glemp, to whom he gave the Yad Vashem memorial medal. Glemp gave him a church medal, Arad said.

KGB seizes 72-year-old

MOSCOW (AP). — Naum Meiman, a member of Moscow's now disbanded Helsinki Accords human-rights monitoring group, was taken to the city prosecutor's office yesterday, his wife Ina reported.

She said the KGB gave no reason for seizing the 72-year-old retired mathematics professor, and did not make clear whether he was under arrest.

The couple's home was searched earlier in the week by seven KGB men, and a tape recorder, a typewriter, and what authorities called "slandering anti-Soviet material" were seized. Agents told Meiman's wife they were looking for evidence of his links to an Armenian human-rights group.

Meiman's request to emigrate had been refused on the grounds that he had had access to secret information while working for a research institute.

Police officer killed in Negev road accident

ASHKELON (Itim). — Rav Pakad Uzi Gordon, of the Lachish division police, was killed yesterday afternoon in a road accident on the Negev road.

Gordon, of Nir Moshe, was driving a police vehicle that collided head on with a tender near Moshav Yotvata, driven by a resident of the Gaza District. The driver of the tender was detained.

Israel raps Finland over PLO office

Post Diplomatic Correspondent
Israel complained to Finland yesterday over its decision to permit the PLO to open an office in Helsinki.

Finnish ambassador Erikki Maentakanen was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem and told to convey Israel's "disappointment and concern" to his government.

HOME NEWS

Wage-earners' real income down 15% from January

Post Economic Reporter
Real income of wage-earners for April will be 15 per cent lower than it was in January, according to calculations made from Treasury figures released yesterday.

The last cost-of-living increase was for inflation that occurred in 1982, and already, in the first three months of 1983, prices have risen by 21.6 per cent. A further increase of 8 to 10 per cent is expected for this month, bringing the four-month total up to 31.3-33.8 per cent.

In other words, some two thirds of this month's cost-of-living increase, 13.8 per cent, will be eroded by the time it is paid — in early May for most workers.

With an adjustment of tax brackets also taking place this month, net income will rise in some cases as much as 16 per cent; but even this figure will fall at least 15 per cent short of the real price-index jump for the January-April period. In addition, the trend is expected to continue, and real wage

erosion may reach 25 per cent or even more by July.

The Treasury figures mean that net increases for income levels in this month's salary will be as follows:

Gross income, March 1983	Net increase	per cent
\$50,000	1,058	13.8
\$55,000	1,086	15.2
\$60,000	2,354	14.9
\$65,000	2,904	15.2
\$70,000	3,997	16.2
\$75,000	4,936	15.7

The figures are based on a 13.8 cost-of-living rise up to a ceiling of \$542,500 monthly salary, and an increase in the National Insurance dues ceiling for deductions at a rate of 4.2 per cent, from \$53,300 to \$560,800.

The Histadrut is expected to submit demands to employers for compensation in light of this wage erosion, in line with provisions in the framework agreements concerning anticipated erosion now in the second year of their application.

Marines duck for safety when Lebanese open fire

BEIRUT (AP). — Lebanese soldiers fired at a speeding vehicle near the bomb-shattered U.S. Embassy yesterday, prompting about 200 U.S. Marine guards to dive for cover and crouch beside cars and stone walls in combat-ready positions.

A Marine spokesman said the shots were fired by Lebanese Army soldiers stationed on the seaside Corniche highway between the British and American embassies.

"The Lebanese Army was shooting at a speeding vehicle," the spokesman said, adding there were no injuries and no indication that the vehicle was hit.

The 10-minute scare briefly interrupted the four-day-old search for victims in the rubble after nine more bodies were recovered from the wreckage, including five Americans, three Lebanese and one Egyptian, according to Red Cross officials.

The U.S. Embassy said the latest casualty count showed 47 persons were believed killed in the apparent suicide bombing of the seven-story

Embassy building at lunchtime Monday. The Embassy said 17 Americans and 30 Lebanese were confirmed dead or missing and presumed dead.

This was two less than the 49 listed as killed or missing by U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon on Wednesday.

Explaining the discrepancy, Marine spokesman Jim Hickman said one American and two Lebanese Embassy staffers who were listed as missing had sent word they were out of the Embassy when the bomb went off.

Police said their casualty toll stood yesterday at 52 killed, including 17 Americans, one badly burned body of a Canadian who could not be identified, an Egyptian Embassy servant and 33 Lebanese.

The ABC television network said that four Central Intelligence Agency agents were killed in the blast, wiping out the CIA's network in Beirut. The Jerusalem Post correspondent in Washington reported yesterday.

Syria bans Beirut-Damascus flights

DAMASCUS (AP). — Syrian authorities have banned passengers from flying between Beirut and Damascus, officials said yesterday.

The officials, who requested anonymity, said the ban was at the request of Lebanese authorities. Lebanese officials in Beirut had no immediate comment.

An estimated 5,000 persons a month have been flying between the two capitals, Syrian airport officials said.

Syria's Arab Airways and

Lebanon's Middle East Airlines have no flights between the two cities, since travellers usually made the journey by road in the past between the neighbouring countries.

But because of the tension in Lebanon's Bekaa valley, many travellers prefer to fly.

Some European airlines, including Air France and SAS, have been hauling passengers between Beirut and Damascus in the past few months.

Kibbutz movement almost split

KIBBUTZ AFIKIM (Itim). — The United Kibbutz Movement central committee ended a two-day political conference here yesterday held together, according to members of the group's youth division, by the formative ardour of Labour Party veteran Yisrael Galili.

Were it not for Galili's ability to find compromise between the views of doves and hawks, they said, the Alignment-affiliated movement would have split.

The Kibbutz members denounced the identification brought about during the past year

of Nahal paramilitary outposts, often comprising soldiers affiliated to the movement's kibbutzim, with settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District.

The movement resolved also to continue educating its youth in the "purity of arms," and to inculcate upon them respect for the Arabs.

The movement, which comprises the former Ihud Vehakibbutzim and Hakibbutz Hame'uhad federations, called on Mapam and its Hakibbutz Ha'artzi collectives to remain in the Alignment with the Labour Party.

DOCTORS

(Continued from Page One)

to private doctors.
Yisrael Kessar, head of the Histadrut's Trades Union department of the Histadrut yesterday protested that Health Minister Shostak had made an agreement with the doctors to staff hospitals, but not health-fund clinics.

Addressing the Insurance Association "Forum" at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv, he said that Professor Haim Doron, director-general of the Clalit health fund, had asked the health minister to issue back-to-work orders so that there would be one doctor in each clinic. "To this day we have not received a reply," said Kessar.

He continued: "Shostak agreed with the doctors that if 30 per cent of them would man the hospitals, he would not issue back-to-work orders. But there isn't one doctor manning our clinics. I am complaining that the government permits this situation to continue."

Kessar said he is not against the doctors' right to wage a labour struggle. But he said: "This is more than just a labour struggle. What do the doctors want? With the government's aid they want to change the nature of the health services."

Kessar said the doctors cannot be allowed to do this. When a person

goes to hospital, he is entitled to the best treatment and this should not be affected by his ability to pay, Kessar declared.

"I am sad that part of the struggle that they (the doctors) are waging is towards setting up a private medical service," he said.

The first three law suits against the Histadrut's health fund, demanding reimbursement of fees paid to striking doctors for treatment and for payment for drugs, were issued yesterday by the Tel Aviv small claims court. They will be heard in September.

The plaintiffs said their children became sick during the doctor's strike and they went to medical-aid points set up by the doctors.

Independence pageant at end of this month

TEL AVIV. — The Independence Day pageant, "Independence and Heroism," will be held in the National Stadium in Ramat Gan on Saturday, April 30, at 8:30 p.m., and not as reported in Monday's edition of The Jerusalem Post.

The pageant which was to have been held in Independence Day, was postponed because of bad weather. Tickets are valid for the new date, the pageant's organizing committee said.



Cytron Alem of France (left) and Szymon Szurmiej, director of the Jewish Theatre in Warsaw, talk during their visit on Tuesday to the former Treblinka concentration camp. In the background is a monument to the Treblinka camp victims. (UPI telephoto)

Arens tells mourners we must be firm

SAYYON (Itim). — The firmness of Israel's stand in Lebanon will assure the success of the negotiations, Defence Minister Moshe Arens yesterday told over a thousand mourners at the military funeral of Segen (lieutenant) Zvi Maklis.

Maklis's commanding officer, Seren (captain) Menahem Reich, was buried yesterday in the military cemetery of Haifa's Carmel Cemetery. Both were killed in a clash with terrorists in Lebanon on Wednesday night (see story Page 1).

The two served in the elite reconnaissance unit of the Golani Brigade, to which Maklis had volunteered from his own Artillery Corps unit as a spotter. Both were 21 years old.

"We are now on the threshold of concluding the political and military negotiating process with the Lebanese government," Arens said in his eulogy. "As long as the negotiations continue, we shall not let any element in Lebanon or outside it dictate our moves to us or weaken our resolve."

"Our soldiers in Lebanon and the public at the rear must know that our steadfastness in Lebanon and our ability to hold these lines will determine the future of the negotiations," said Arens.

The name of the Israel Defence Forces truck driver killed in a separate ambush Wednesday was yet to be released.

PLO chiefs review course

Post Middle East Affairs Reporter and agencies

Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat met with the PLO leadership in Tunis yesterday to review the organization's course following the breakdown of his talks with Jordan's King Hussein earlier this month.

The meeting of the organization's 15-man executive committee was postponed several times since the talks broke down, with Arafat undertaking a tour of several East European capitals while apparently waiting for the open differences between the organization's moderates and radicals to subside.

The radicals, led by George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Yusef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led the opposition inside the PLO to

granting Hussein the mandate he sought to enter the peace process under the terms of the Reagan initiative.

Both Habash and Hawatmeh served notice earlier this week that they, like their patron Syria, will continue to obstruct any move to enable Hussein to enter the peace process by opposing the holding of an emergency Arab summit in Fez early next month. Morocco's King Hassan, who has called for the convening of the summit, apparently hopes that this will find some way of breaking the current deadlock between Jordan and the PLO.

Neither Habash nor Hawatmeh was reported to have arrived in Tunis by last night to attend the meeting of the PLO's eight-faction leaders, scheduled to have taken place after the executive council meeting.

There were smokes but there was no fire

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Two bumbling hijackers who tried to steal a truck load of imported cigarettes worth millions of shekels were caught before they got their hands on the smokes.

The two intercepted the container lorry, en route to Tel Aviv, on the outskirts of Haifa on Tuesday and used their car to force it to stop.

They first tried to bribe the driver by offering him \$500,000 to leave the lorry unguarded where they could steal the cigarettes without fear of detection.

When he refused, they threatened to kill his wife and children. He

finally agreed to meet the two at the central bus station in Tel Aviv, where they were to make arrangements for leaving the lorry.

The would-be thieves left the driver to continue his journey to Tel Aviv alone, and he immediately contacted police who laid an ambush at the bus station and arrested two men.

The suspects were brought back to Haifa on Wednesday and one of them, Mordechai Bardugo, of Haifa, was remanded into custody for 10 days by the Haifa Magistrates Court on charges related to the incident. The other suspect is expected to be brought to the court today.

SYRIA-ISRAEL

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cent Israeli statements calling for a preemptive strike against Syria are being accompanied by huge Israeli military concentrations in Southern Lebanon and along the Syrian border.

Syria has charged a few times in recent months that Israel is preparing for an offensive against its forces in Lebanon, presumably in a bid to remove Damascus's veto over any far-reaching agreement emerging in the talks with Lebanon.

Syria has reportedly been beefing up its own forces in the Bekaa, particularly since the onset of spring. Yet it would seem that Syria has no obvious cause to initiate hostilities at this particular time.

Prospects for a far-reaching Israeli agreement with Lebanon that would take that country into what Syria would regard as an intolerable special relationship with Israel have greatly receded, with

yesterday's talks in Halde revealing — according to Lebanese sources — that even Israel's minimal security demands in South Lebanon are meeting with stiff Lebanese opposition.

Peres favours early poll

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

KIBBUTZ AFIKIM. — Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres said yesterday he favours advancing the date of the elections. "We must aim at changing national policy. I read the public-opinion polls and despite what they show, I'm for early elections," Peres said.

He was speaking to members of the United Kibbutz Movement meeting in Afikim.

Peres said that the annexationist acts of the government in Judea and Samaria "unavoidably mean war. 'Only a miracle can save us from such a war,' he said. Those in power are trying to convince us that a 100-year war is unavoidable, he said. "The basis of such an idea is that territory increases security, but

the missiles already in our area, do not pay attention to the distance between two hills."

The conversion of the Bracha military outpost near Nablus into a civilian settlement last week, Peres asserted, means leading the country down a one-way street that has one of two possible outlets: converting Israel into a racist state like South Africa, or into a state of minorities like Lebanon.

The explosion in the American Embassy building in Beirut earlier this week has ruled out the possibility of a multinational force being an element in our relations with Lebanon, Peres said. The U.S. Senate will not consider such an idea, he maintained. "It's time that Begin got wise and realized that all that Jemayel can offer us is endless difficulties."

PERES' HINT

(Continued from Page One)

pronouncements on the subject, sources close to him told The Post.

Other groups in the party, especially Peres opponents, voiced the opinion that Peres' interest in early elections is largely motivated by calculations concerning his own position in the party. These sources argue that Peres feels increasingly beleaguered in Labour. He is lagging behind in all popularity polls, and is now not only preceded by former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, but also by President Yitzhak Navon, who may yet become a contender for the Labour leadership.

One way for Peres to secure his Number 1 position in the party would be to have early elections before Navon is ready to take over the Labour leadership. Such elections, according to pro-Rabin and pro-Navon circles in Labour, will be beneficial to Peres personally, regardless of how the Alignment list does in the elections. The Likud would be starting off with a very substantial lead, they admit.

The Likud feels pressed by its many coalition partners, and many in the party dread the reconvening of the Knesset after the spring recess, since the various partners are expected to renew their demands and counterdemands on the coalition.

One problem already in the offing, for example, is the appointment of Knesset Member Sarah Doron as the Liberals' sixth minister. Agudat Yisrael has served notice that it may not vote for Doron because of her opposition to various bills on religious matters. Other parties may use the occasion to raise their own demands, and there could be serious repercussions.

In the National Religious Party, the news from Afikim was greeted with considerable anxiety. The NRP is still in as vulnerable a position as it was after the 1981 elections, when its power was halved. Now polls indicate that it might come out of new elections with only three, of its present six, Knesset seats. The party is disunited and is trying to decide whether to go ahead with potentially disharmonious internal elections on June 1. Moves are afoot to cancel that vote.

Another threat to the NRP comes from MK Haim Druckman, who is soon due to leave the NRP Knesset faction formally. His new party, Matzad, might deprive the NRP of even more of its Orthodox votes.

The worry in the NRP yesterday was whether the Alignment might be cooking up a deal with the Likud to advance elections, despite Likud promises that it will not make such a move without the approval of the junior coalition partners.

ETTAN'S REASONS

(Continued from Page One)

are not carried out with stubborn insistence on our demands, the result will be war, Eitan asserted.

Concerning superpower rivalry, Eitan said that "Russia is a responsible power. It is a state that will not get involved in tension if it is not sure of the results." At this point, Eitan changed the subject and after a few derogatory comments about journalists, started settling accounts with several politicians.

About Labour Knesset Member Yosef Sarid he said: "If Sarid were given a good drubbing by the news media for leaks from the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, he would stop leaking information. Why don't journalists tell Sarid he is a criminal? Sarid is a bad example of an elected representative of the people."

To the amusement of the audience, Eitan told how he had met a respected journalist from Jerusalem outside the WC in Beit Hanassi (the Presidential Residence). "What are you doing here?" I asked him, Eitan said. "He replied 'I'm at a leaking outpost.'"

Eitan told the students he does not want to talk about the Kahan Commission (that investigated the Sabra and Shatilla massacres and said that, since Eitan was at the end of his stint as chief of staff, they would not recommend he be removed from his post earlier). "I'm collecting all the material and I'll say what I find necessary in future," he said.

Eitan also settled accounts with a predecessor, Haim Bar-Lev, now an

Alignment MK, though without mentioning him by name. "A certain chief of staff in the reserves wrote to an Arab lawyer telling him that Elon Moreh belongs to the Arabs," he said.

Eitan also said that the same former chief of staff once gave an order to capture a hill near Hebron, then to set up a tent on the hill and tell the Arabs 'the area' was being used for army exercises. Later, Eitan said, he ordered that the tent be taken down and a wooden barrack be put up in its place. Later, the order was to change the barrack into a settlement. "That same man will hear what I'm saying straight to his face," Eitan said.

Navon turned to Jemayel on massacres

President Yitzhak Navon revealed last night that he asked Lebanese President Amin Jemayel a few times to have the guilty in the Sabra and Shatilla massacres brought to justice. The president mentioned this in a special interview given to Israel Television's Arabic programme.

Navon said he suggested to Jemayel that the murderers were possibly persons in his entourage and that their identity was no secret. If Jemayel wishes his regime to last, these persons must be tried, Navon said he told the Lebanese leader. (Itim)

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Mourners:
Wife: Libby (Ahuvah)
Daughters: Esther Lopata
and Zipporah Marans

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will honour the memory of

ABRAHAM I. CARMEL

at a memorial service at the Beit Shemesh cemetery at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 13 Iyar 5743 — April 28, 1983.

Police arrest 17 in narcotics crackdown

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Weeks of round-the-clock police operations culminated on Wednesday morning with the arrest of 17 drug dealers and customers, the capture of 30 grams of heroin, and the closure of four drug-dispensing stations in the Tel Aviv area.

The raids, led by Rav Pakad Immanuel Hecht, Rav Pakad Nobel (Jaffa), Pakad Zion Nagad, and Pakad Aharon Navon, began in Or Yehuda, when a surveillance team saw two well-known criminals approach an apartment. One, the apartment owner, was a known drug dealer, and the other was known to be in stolen property.

The two were stopped for questioning and the police found two syringes, an ampule and a heroin teaspoon on one suspect. In the yard of the apartment police found 12.55 grams of heroin in a plastic bag. They arrested the 30-year-old drug dealer, whom they suspect of receiving and selling drugs from his apartment, and his wife, 25, and brother-in-law, 28, who are suspected of helping him.

From Or Yehuda the police team drove to a drug-dispensing station in Jaffa's Sderot Yerushalayim where they saw several persons believed to be customers arriving and leaving. A 32-year-old Jaffa resident suspected of running the station was seen entering building Number 5 in Jaffa's Elazar Ben-Zadok Street a

few times.

Detectives arrested the suspect as he was lifting a doormat in front of a first-floor apartment door. Apparently, he hid heroin doses under innocent residents' doormats. Police found three heroin doses under one mat and two others under a second mat. The detectives also arrested the suspect's 26-year-old brother, who is suspected of helping him sell the dope, and three customers waiting to receive drugs.

Another suspected drug dealer, 28, who will be charged with operating a drug-dispensing station in his Jaffa apartment, was arrested outside his flat with 9.15 grams of heroin in his hand. The detectives, who noticed many suspected buyers outside the suspect's home, raided it after arresting him, and found scales, weights and other items used to measure heroin. The suspect's 23-year-old wife was also arrested.

The detectives then went to Ezra quarter, where they arrested a drug-dealing suspect, 28, and a man suspected of bringing customers from Hatikva quarter to a drug station in his Fiat car. At the station, the police seized seven heroin portions and two other young men.

Detectives in a lookout post near this station also intercepted three customers who arrived privately. They arrested two young men who came in a Transit car and one man who came by taxi, after finding a dose of heroin in the possession of each man.

Teachers toughen sanctions

TEL AVIV. — Teachers' sanctions are to continue, after a meeting yesterday between Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer and leaders of the two teachers' unions made little progress. Teachers have stopped substituting for sick colleagues, and, as of Sunday, classes will begin at 9 a.m. instead of 8

Shoshana Bayer that immediate progress must be made toward implementing the Etzioni commission recommendations. These call for higher salaries, smaller classes, and better working conditions, among other recommendations designed to improve both education and the status of teachers.

Hammer told the union leaders that he will meet with Finance Minister Yoram Aridor on Sunday and arrange a further meeting with the teachers' representatives for Monday.

Two men killed by crane

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSHEBA. — Two railway employees were killed here yesterday by a crane. Haim Luzon, 31, was talking with Beduin coal worker, Mussa Maruk Abu-Siam, 26, when the crane, driven in reverse, hit and killed them.

The crane operator has been held for questioning. Police sources said that a preliminary investigation indicated

that the accident may have happened because the crane operator's cabin is on the right side of the machine. Consequently, because the load it carried blocked his vision to the left, the driver did not notice the two men, who were crushed by the back wheel of the crane.

People who came to the scene of the accident when they heard screams called Magen David Adom. The two men were taken to Soroka hospital, where they were pronounced dead on arrival.

New local paper to be basis for multi-media corporation

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The first issue of *Rehov Rashi* (Main Street), a weekly local paper for the Rishon LeZion area was printed yesterday by the Jerusalem Post press. It is to be the first of 20 new local papers published by Eitan Communications, Ltd., a multi-media corporation which also plans to develop cable television and regional radio.

Eitan was set up by three former broadcasting authorities officials: Immanuel Abbadi, the managing director, was deputy director-general of the authority; chief editor Eli Nissan was the producer of Israel Television's *Mabat Sheini*; and the deputy managing director, Avi Angel, was ITV's economic reporter.

Eitan intends to cover the country — including Tel Aviv and Haifa — with a score of local papers. Final editing and preparing the papers for printing is to be done in Tel Aviv, although a local editorial board is to be responsible for collecting each paper's material. The central editorial board will also make syndicated material available to the locals.

Eitan hopes that the 20 papers — all to be published by the end of the year — will form the infrastructure for cable television and regional radio stations. Investors in Eitan include Dotan, Delta Galil and another large financial institution, which is to announce its involvement soon.



President Yitzhak Navon visits the neo-natal ward during his tour of Jerusalem's Misgav Ladach hospital yesterday.

Poll finds Likud more 'worthy' than Labour

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Likud is regarded by the public as having a more responsible leadership than the Alignment, and as more worthy of being in power, filter to cope with the nation's problems, more democratic, more united and less given to the use of verbal violence, according to the latest *Jerusalem Post* opinion poll.

Those polled also felt that the Likud represents people like themselves more than Labour does.

The poll was conducted for *The Post* by the Modi'in Ezrachi social-research centre under Dr. Sara Shemer. It was carried out between March 15 and 23, among a representative sample of 1,216 Israeli Jews.

To gauge the public images of the two large parties, respondents were asked to rate them for each of several traits on a scale of one to seven. Higher scores meant more

positive perceptions of the party. The Likud won an average rating of 5.0 for responsible leadership, with the Alignment trailing at 3.5.

On the parties' worthiness to be in power, the Likud was rated at 4.9, the Alignment at 3.4.

The Likud rated 4.9 on suitability to tackle the nation's problems, the Alignment 3.7.

Respondents saw the two parties as closer on their respect for the rules of democracy. The Likud was rated at 5.1, the Alignment 4.6.

A related question — which party's representatives are less given to the use of verbal violence — also produced close results. Here, too, the Likud came out slightly ahead, 4.0 to the Alignment's 3.6.

On its degree of internal unity, the Likud scored 4.8, the Alignment only 2.8.

The respondents were also asked to rate each party on how much they believe it represents people

"like me." The Likud was awarded an average rating of 4.37, with the Alignment scoring only 3.28.

Shemer notes that the differences between Labour and the Alignment are considerable, and significant concerning their worthiness to hold power.

Among the 334 respondents who identified themselves as floating voters — not leaning towards either party — the gaps were somewhat narrower. But here, too, the Likud scored higher than the Alignment on every question except the one pertaining to verbal violence. Here, the Alignment scored 3.9 as against 3.7 for the Likud.

Among the floating voters only, the Likud was rated higher on responsible leadership (4.6 to 3.8), suitability to tackle the nation's problems (4.7 to 3.9), as respect for democracy (4.9 to 4.7), unity (4.3 to 2.7) and as representing the "people like me" (3.73 to 3.45).

More danger of air pollution since weathermen strike

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEIT DAGAN. — One of the results of the weathermen's strike is an ecological threat to residents of Haifa, Tel Aviv and Ashdod.

Normally the weathermen provide the power stations and the Israel Electric Corporation with information about changes in cloud and wind movement. To overcome the danger that the wind will blow polluting smoke and fumes into the cities, the power stations switch over to low-sulphur-content fuel when necessary.

A spot check made by *The Jerusalem Post* at two main stations during the week of the strike

showed that the power stations were not informed when there was a danger of air pollution.

The strike has also affected civil aviation. The weathermen are only giving hourly weather forecasts, and not four-, six-, and 12-hour forecasts, which pilots need.

A member of the weathermen's works committee told *The Post* yesterday that the Transport Ministry refuses to meet with them. The ministry is prepared to open talks only if the weathermen return to work and request a meeting.

The weathermen are demanding higher wages, better working conditions and the replacement of two employees who have gone on pension.

Woman's lifeless body found, police probe death's cause

TEL AVIV (Itim). — The police have opened an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Hava Katalan, 25, whose parents found her dead yesterday morning in their flat in the Hadar Yosef quarter of Tel Aviv. The police do not believe her death was the result of a criminal act. The possibility that it was induced by drugs is being considered.

Katalan was wounded slightly last month when her friend, Yehoshua Rassin, was stabbed to death in his flat in Rehov Idelson in Tel Aviv. Rassin was a known drug dealer, and Tel Aviv District Court Judge Uri Strosman yesterday granted the Tel Aviv district attorney's request that the three charged with the murder be held until the end of their trial.

Ministry clears some Taiwan mushrooms
Jerusalem Post Staff

The Health Ministry announced yesterday that it has tested most brands of canned mushrooms imported from Taiwan, following reports of botulism from such products in Australia, and found most to be safe.

The ministry warns that cans of mushrooms bearing either of the following code markings are not safe for consumption: HMWS-TAIYU2126 or MWM-PCY-9130. The ministry has not completed tests on the brands Admiral, Black and Gold, or Taiyu and repeats its warning to the public to bring to the nearest Health Ministry bureau cans bearing the suspect markings and those swollen out of shape.

They are: Matzliah Aisha, 28; his brother, Avraham, 22, and Amira Pimenthal, all of Tel Aviv. The charge sheet states that the two Aisha brothers stabbed Rassin and that an attempt had been made to stab Katalan as well, but she escaped with light wounds. Pimenthal is charged with throwing the murder weapon into the Yarkon River when the trio left Rassin's flat.

Arab mayor condemns raising of PLO flags
By YOEL DAR
Jerusalem Post Reporter

SHAFARIM. — Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Hussein yesterday condemned the tearing down of Israeli flags and their replacement by PLO flags on the local labour council and town hall buildings on Independence Day.

In a cable sent to the northern district police chief, Nitzav Yitzhak Eran, Hussein, who is also the chairman of the association of Arab local councils, wrote that the perpetrators "represent only themselves." He urged the police to do their utmost to find and prosecute them.

So far four young persons have been arrested on suspicion of being involved in the incident.

Israeli judge at Cannes

Lia Van Leer, director of the Jerusalem Cinematheque, has been named to the eight-member jury for this year's Cannes Film Festival, starting May 7. This will be the first time an Israeli will be on the panel.

Misgav Ladach hospital needs \$5m. more to open

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The completion of Misgav Ladach Hospital's new premises is being delayed by money problems, even though its planned medical services are unavailable elsewhere in Jerusalem.

President Yitzhak Navon, whose father was on the hospital committee many years ago, yesterday toured the building's skeleton in Rehov Herzl Yehuda Hamelech and the cramped facilities "temporarily" in use — for the last 35 years — a few blocks away in the capital's Katamon quarter.

Hospital director Reuven Kashani told Navon that the hospital, founded in 1854, runs on private donations and receives no government funds. The new four-story building will cost about \$7 million, of which only about \$2m. have been raised. Hospital officials said that it could open before the end of this year if all the pledges and promises of help came in.

A Health Ministry spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* that Misgav Ladach's new facility was approved years ago by then-minister Victor Shemtov, partly for historical and sentimental reasons and partly

because it offered services unavailable elsewhere. Its 60 planned beds have been approved by the ministry's planning authority. The government, said the spokesman, does not subsidize hospital construction, but sometimes funds special units.

Misgav Ladach officials told Navon that the present facility offers services unique to Jerusalem, including an open phone line for queries about fertility and gynecological problems, and a walk-in centre for early detection of cervical cancer, and a breast-cancer detection unit.

The new hospital will not restrict itself to obstetrics and gynecology, but will be more general, including an eye clinic and an ear, nose and throat clinic.

Mubarak sends greetings on Israel's independence

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak sent President Yitzhak Navon greetings on Israel's 35th Independence Day. The message, received yesterday, said Mubarak was happy to send Navon the friendliest of greetings and best wishes to him and to all the people of Israel. (Itim)

Israel-Spain air link due soon

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Spanish national carrier, Iberia airlines, will probably open a direct flight between Spain and Israel this summer, notwithstanding the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

A contract is to be signed between Iberia and El Al next week, reliable tourism circles confirmed yesterday. They added that if all goes well, the twice weekly flight may start even sooner.

A representative of the Iberia of-

fice, which has been operating in Tel Aviv for the past two years, said that the office has not been officially notified about direct flights from Spain to Israel.

Sixty-five thousand Israeli tourists are expected to visit Spain this year, double the number last summer, and the regular airlines want their share of this flourishing market.

Until now, Israelis could fly to Spain either by charter flights, which operate only in season, or via Athens, Rome or Nice, prolonging the time of the flight.

Ohana killing suspects plead not guilty

RAMALLAH (Itim). — Five Arabs from the south Judean town of Dahariya went on trial at the military court here yesterday charged with the slaying of Esther Ohana in January. They allegedly stoned the car in which she was riding through their town. The five are Mohammed Fadiah, 20; Atel Walidat, 17; Subhi Walidat, 17; Ha'el abu-Alan, 21 and Hassan al-Mahraza, 19.

They are accused of the premeditated murder of Ohana and membership in an illegal organization, incitement of local schoolchildren, the preparation and distribution of leaflets denouncing the local village

league, and intimidating people who cooperated with the Israeli authorities.

The military prosecutor said that the hurling of the stones that caused the death of Ohana was no less serious than if the accused had been shooting guns.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the premeditated murder of Ohana and to the charge of belonging to an illegal organization.

Man rapes his wife
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — A man reportedly raped his estranged wife at gunpoint in their home in Kiryat Ata early yesterday morning.

The woman, 26, called police immediately after the incident at about 2 a.m.

The couple, who have three children, are living in the same flat even though they are in the process of getting divorced.

The police were last night still searching for the man, who is 29.

INFLATION. — French inflation probably will exceed 8 per cent this year and the objective of halving 1982's billion franc (15520.7b.) trade deficit by the end of 1983 will not be attained, French Finance Ministry officials said yesterday.

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The telephone numbers in use until today are subject to the following changes:

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9-267-267

Assia Chemical Industries Ltd.

9-233-333

Solomon, Levin and Epstein Ltd.

9-230-301

Offices of Promedico Ltd. (unchanged)

9-227-151

Warehouse of Promedico Ltd.

9-230-306

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Please RSVP to AACI — 02-248823.

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HIS BRASS and stainless steel kinetic sculptures decorate plazas in many world capitals; his geometric canelabra and murals are prized in Beit Hanassi, the White House and the Elysee Palace; and his immediately recognizable three-dimensional "interspacograph" paintings are collected by some of the richest and most famous personalities.

But Israeli-born artist Yaacov Agam is looking for another kind of immortality.

For the last 20 years, he has devoted whatever time remained between painting and opening exhibitions to inventing and developing a new kind of "language" — a visual "alphabet" aimed at substantially increasing the intelligence and learning ability of young children. It is being implemented in schools in Venezuela, tried in France and approved for use in the Israeli educational system. Almost matter-of-factly, Agam quotes Venezuela's minister of development of human intelligence, who said Agam's plan is "the most important invention since the wheel, if it produces the results Agam expects."

Agam himself declares that his teaching system is "the most important thing I've ever done."

BORN IN REHOVOT in 1928, the son of a Kabbalist rabbi, Yaacov studied at the Bezalel Academy of Art in Jerusalem but left Israel in the early 1950s, penniless and unknown. His photos from those years show the artist as carelessly dressed in shorts and rumpled shirts, rather plump and with wild eyes and beard or moustache.

The Agam of today seems considerably tamer. But he is no less energetic a salesman of his creations and ideas than he was 30 years ago. Slim and wearing a black velvet jacket and tie, with the neatly trimmed salt-and-pepper beard of a talmudic sage, Agam appears possessed by his vision of intelligence boosting. He disregards questions he doesn't have time or doesn't care to answer, no matter how many times they are posed.

The artist absorbed Jewishness at home, and he says it pervades his art and philosophy. Quoting frequently from the Pentateuch, he asserts that the visual is supreme in the Torah. "When God created the world, the Bible says that God saw it was good. And at the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai," Agam continues, the Children of Israel were said to have "seen" the sounds emanating from the holy mountain.

"Why," he asks, "did God, in the Second Commandment, forbid the making of a graven image? For only people with artistic talents are able to make such images. But the commandment is, in truth, universal. Because a person creates first with his eyes, not with his hands. The visual comes first."

Judaism, he continues, "views life as a dynamic, creative, evolving process. This does not mean that it is a formless flux. Quite the contrary, there are eternal, unchanging principles of truth that underlie existence. However, the manifestation and concretization of these enduring principles are constantly changing. Life is the very opposite of be-

ing static. Thus," he goes on, "a work of art that captures a specific moment and eternalizes it in a painting or sculpture is expressing a static view of existence. Authentic Jewish art is not Jewish because it portrays the image of a rabbi, for example; it must capture and communicate the very dynamism of life's flowing, changing quality."

To illustrate this, he takes a wooden box out of a suitcase of objects. He displays a nest of brass pieces, each exactly the same shape but one progressively larger than the other. He arranges them on their back, and with the flick of a finger, the "Beating Heart" sculpture undulates back and forth, each piece at a different speed according to weight. This, according to Agam, is Jewish art.

The sight of the moving waves of brass is spellbinding: the secret of his artistic popularity is perhaps the human attraction to moving parts, to manipulating toylike pieces. But what does this have to do with intelligence?

At his own pace, Agam explains: "A newborn baby sees but doesn't understand. He doesn't talk. He wants to see creation. The language of the Creator is visual, not verbal."

All education today, Agam claims, is primarily verbal. Children are taught to repeat words, to describe things verbally. As a result, children are quickly turned in school into "visual illiterates."

To illustrate the impact of the visual, Agam takes a letter-opener from the desk and hides it. "You can look at an object for a thousandth of a second, and the image is imprinted in the brain, but it would take many minutes to describe the letter opener in words. Visual language travels almost with the speed of light."

Whatever a person sees he absorbs into his brain, says Agam. But information that enters the brain as words cannot be so easily stored and thrust out.

AGAM SAYS that what a child learns at a very young age goes directly into his consciousness. "But if he doesn't learn early, he can't create as well later. I teach children in a way that they can absorb, see, remember and expel the information without using words."

The alphabet he created consists of forms — circles, squares and variations. Children learn to recognize shapes in non-verbal terms.

As an example, Agam says that he gives a pencil and pen to children three or four years old, and asks them to measure angles of objects by folding them close to the edges. The children, he says, quickly learn the principle of angles and fit from books, to tables to chairs, like bees in a garden, to measure the varied angles.

They are taught to make circles with their arms, and to find the forms in objects and letters around them. "This makes use of the right side of the brain," he maintains. "They ingest images and store them, like a video film."

Children who were taught with this system, he says, were compared with a control group. "When tested on what they had learned, they

Possessed by a vision



"Visual illiterates" is how celebrated artist YAACOV AGAM describes the products of today's schools. He believes he has a revolutionary method for changing how they learn. JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH reports.

remembered twice as much as those who had not been taught visually."

Agam devised a "visual alphabet, with its own grammar," out of visual forms and colours, and with their many permutations. He wrote 36 100-page books — in French — that can be used as workbooks for children in pre-school kindergarten and nursery classes.

Agam has complete copyright on the books, which are being used in Venezuela's public school system and — at his request — at the Jewish school in Caracas. The technique, he says, has also been tried in schools in France, but discontinued when the new government came in, and there is a proposal in the U.S. to prepare textbooks for the training of teachers in the Agam method.

ASKED WHY Venezuela, and not his native Israel, was the first to get

them, Agam says, his eyes fiery: "I brought them to Israel 12 years ago, but I was regarded as 'crazy.' So I took the books to Venezuela and to France."

Agam has discussed the method with President Ronald Reagan in the White House several times, and he is now in regular contact with heads of Israel's Education Ministry, including Minister Zevulun Hammer and director-general Eliezer Shmueli, who have approved implementation on an experimental basis.

Eager for Israel to use his method, Agam went to the Weizmann Institute of Science, and displayed it at a meeting of all department heads. "I wanted the institute to study it because it is scientific in outlook," Agam explains. He helped obtain a grant of \$50,000 from Walter Schoenfeld of Seattle, and pledges from Yisrael Bernitzky,

manager of the Ormat company in Yavne, and expects that the Weizmann Institute scientists will succeed in testing his method further, develop it for Israeli use and translate the 36 books into Hebrew.

"I am not an educator," says Agam, "but this method came out of my experiments with art. Leonardo da Vinci was the first to develop a visual language — of sharp angles to express the masculine, and rounded forms to express the feminine. I have worked for 30 years to create a language from these things."

Agam recalls that when he spoke a few years ago at an educational conference in Caracas, "Russian participants expressed great interest in my method."

THE CHILDREN taught in the Venezuelan schools using his technique are much more alert, says

Agam. "They aren't bored in their classes, as children usually are as they progress in school." He believes that youngsters can learn in four years what they would ordinarily learn in eight. "Why, with this method, children can understand Einstein's theory of relativity at age five, while most scientists don't understand it."

THE EDUCATIONAL experts asked about Agam's method were much more guarded than the artist in evaluating the impact and potential of his teaching programme, but they were nearly as excited about it.

Education Ministry Director-General Shmueli told *The Jerusalem Post* that his office has asked the Weizmann Institute's department of science teaching to comment on the Agam method. Probably starting this fall, the technique will be used experimentally in three kindergartens around the country — one in a disadvantaged neighbourhood, and another certainly in Yavne, at the request of the industrialist who is providing some of the seed money.

Meanwhile, the department has started looking for competent French-Hebrew translators to work on the 36 Agam books. The diagrams will have to be hand-drawn and coloured. Shmueli says that the technique "interests" him very much, and that he is eager to see the results.

Prof. Maxim Bruckheimer, who arrived here from England 10 years ago, is chairman of the science teaching department at the Weizmann Institute. He says the project is only in its infancy, and that much work remains ahead. After the booklets are prepared, kindergarten teachers and supervisors must be trained to work with the material in classrooms. A control group must be chosen to test the method on a completely scientific basis.

"Perhaps kindergarten children is the wrong age group and the method should have older or younger children?" he suggests. "Perhaps there is too much material for them to absorb, and the books have to be cut down?"

He is cautious when asked to evaluate Agam's claims. "Why, it's only in its beginnings. But we at Weizmann wouldn't have started it if we weren't optimistic. If the technique manages only to improve the visual ability of children, there will be a payoff. There is no other textual material in this field, so we must try this."

Bruckheimer adds that the "material looks very good indeed. It's well worth trying. It is not exactly science teaching, but if it is successful, it could improve children's conceptions of geometry at least."

David Pur, chairman of the Pedagogical Secretariat at the Education Ministry, said that he would like to see the theory tried out in Grades 1 to 3, and that could require Agam to prepare more advanced books on the subject. But while the Venezuelan ministry of intelligence development could afford to send a team to Paris for 18 months to work with Agam on it, Israel's Ministry of Education cannot afford to, and it wouldn't send anyone to Paris even if it could.

Agam has decided to remain in Israel for several months to work on the project here, as the result of a personal tragedy that struck his family last week. Two days after our interview, his 49-year-old wife Clila died suddenly of a heart attack, leaving their three children, the youngest a 12-year-old girl.

Born in Rehovot, like Yaacov, Clila studied to be a kindergarten teacher but went to Paris to study interior decorating. They met in the artists' quarter of Montparnasse, and they remained in France. "Since then," Agam wrote in a kind of eulogy while sitting *shiva* for her, "she shared my life and my unending struggles, from the time we lived in a tiny room without comfort or even the bare necessities, until now."

He credits Clila, descendant of the Lubavitcher dynasty and of the Vilna Gaon, with inspiring his creative work. "She was modest, and never in the limelight, and she relinquished her own ambitions and dreams in order to help develop my creative world."

Now that she is gone, Agam will doubtless devote even more time to the spreading of his educational theories.

ASKED HOW MUCH of an Israeli he remains after so many years abroad, Agam is taken aback. "Of course I'm an Israeli."

"An Israeli living abroad," I venture.

"No, an Israeli working abroad," he insists, adding that he visits here for a total of over a month per year and that his roots are in Rehovot. Most of his family are in Israel, including his brother Hanania Gibstein, who is mayor of Rishon LeZion.

Something of a magician who knows what attracts other people's interest, Agam pulls out of his pocket a round piece of glass etched with his name.

"Do you have a match or a candle?" he asks, in the middle of the interview. A flame is produced, and Agam mysteriously urges me to look through the lens at the fire. Amazingly, a Star of David spun from prismatic colours frames the light. The sun is setting in the west, and the image of the sun hugged by a giant "Jewish Star" is breathtaking.

Agam relates that he had the "magic" lenses made to give to contributors to the Agam education fund he established for stipends to art students at Bezalel and other good causes. He also gave one to President Reagan, who, in the presence of Prime Minister Menachem Begin, was astounded by the image through the glass.

After considerable entreaty, Agam agrees to explain how it works. "Oh, it's a laser technique. I wanted something to express the idea that there are many things in nature that one doesn't appreciate until one knows how to use them. A little thing can make the whole world look different."

That is a good symbol of Agam's teaching method, and of his belief that human potential can be expanded with tools.

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A breath of realism

By DAVID BERNSTEIN

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S message to Syria's Hafez Assad at the end of last week reportedly confirming his commitment to Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights under the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 242 could be the harbinger of a major new direction in Washington's Middle East policy — one that would appear to give greater recognition than in the past to Damascus' key role in the region and the stalehold it plainly holds over America's current peace efforts.

For there can be little doubt now that Syria has been the single most effective impediment not only to Washington's bid to achieve a withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, but also to its much more ambitious plan to bring Jordan into the Middle East peace process.

Syria's effective veto over any agreement in Lebanon that would take that country out of the general Arab orbit and into a special relationship with Israel has plainly left its mark on the course of the tripartite Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. negotiations over the past few months, causing Israel to whittle down its earlier quite unrealistic goals to more or less achievable proportions.

And its equally effective veto, exercised through its protégés in the Palestine Liberation Organization, over Jordan's entry into the peace process on the basis of the initiative launched by Reagan last September, has now made it quite clear that Washington cannot afford to ignore Damascus in any bid to broaden the scope of its peace efforts in the region.

IT WOULD SEEM that Washington, no less than Jerusalem, has been made aware over the past few months of Syria's very profound strategic interests in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, and that Damascus is not likely to subordinate these interests to those of Israel in Southern Lebanon by permitting the Lebanese government to strike a deal not to its liking.

(Syria has managed to wield a very effective veto over any such deal, not through any threat of aggressive or punitive action, but simply by making it plain to all concerned that the withdrawal of its very considerable forces from northern and eastern Lebanon is not something that can be taken for granted.)

This would seem to account in part for the large measure of support Washington has given the Lebanese in rejecting Israeli demands that would plainly have been unacceptable to Damascus, forcing Jerusalem to lower its sights from something approaching a peace treaty to something approaching the minimum that would satisfy its security requirements in the south of Lebanon without incurring a Syrian veto.



Hafez Assad (AGIP)

But at the same time, Washington has been pursuing its goals in Lebanon with almost no direct contact with the Syrians, preferring to leave these to the Lebanese themselves while apparently working behind the scenes to get Saudi Arabia to bring its vaunted financial leverage to bear on Damascus.

As a result, Washington has no assurance whatever that Syria will indeed withdraw its forces from Lebanon, regardless of the agreement finally worked out with Israel — and U.S. special envoy Philip Habib made this plain to Labour Party leaders in Jerusalem earlier this week.

THE QUESTIONABLE nature of Washington's apparent reliance on Saudi Arabia as the major powerbroker in the Middle East while at the same time seeming to relegate Syria to the sidelines was made all too plain earlier this month, when Jordan's King Hussein finally decided to remain aloof from the American-sponsored peace process.

Not only did this reveal the limits of Saudi willingness or ability to use its financial leverage to secure Hussein the PLO mandate to enter the peace process, it also demonstrated vividly Syria's ability to torpedo any such eventuality.

The Reagan initiative, launched on the eve of last September's crucial Arab summit in Fez, was carefully tailored to bring Hussein into the peace process, with the backing of the Saudi-led moderate camp in the Arab world, by holding out the promise of loosening Israel's hold on the West Bank and Gaza and linking their future to Jordan.

It completely disregarded the fact that not only would Syria oppose any attempt to associate these territories with Jordan, with which it has long been at odds, but that it would hardly be likely to come out in support of an initiative that made no mention at all of the Golan Heights, seized by Israel, like the West Bank and Gaza, in 1967.

It is inconceivable that Washington did, in fact, expect Syria to acquiesce in the initiative, and it should have come as no surprise that Damascus would do all in its power to torpedo it — which it did, most effectively, by getting its protégés in the PLO to veto Arafat's bid to grant Hussein the

mandate he sought.

What it apparently hoped to do, as Secretary of State George Shultz indicated last week, was to bypass Syria and the PLO radicals, building a moderate Arab consensus that would support Jordan's entry into the peace process without the PLO's blessing.

Shultz even went so far as to propose that the Arab's revoke the 1974 Rabat summit resolution that recognized the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians."

All this was plainly a piece of political wishful thinking which, although clearly prompted by Shultz's obvious frustration at the setback to Washington's peace plans, revealed all too starkly the extent to which the Americans had come to underestimate Syria's role in the region and to overrate that of Saudi Arabia.

As Thomas Friedman (who has described Saudi Arabia as "the most overrated political actor in the Middle East") wrote in *The New York Times* earlier this week, any move to bypass the PLO in this way would tear the Arab world apart which, he noted, "would not be in the Saudi style. They are consensus builders, not pathbreakers."

REAGAN'S MESSAGE to Assad last week, for all Washington's subsequent attempts to play down its significance, would thus appear to represent a breath of realism in American Middle East peace-making.

It is much too early to say whether it does, in fact, signal a new direction in American policy, apparently entailing some re-evaluation of Syria's place in that policy, or precisely where this will lead in the future.

But the prominence Syria's state-controlled media gave to the message this week should be read in Washington as a clear signal that it has fallen on highly receptive ears, and that if Reagan really wishes to salvage his peace initiative, a greater willingness to take account of Syrian interests will hold greater promise than continuing to pursue the chimera of a moderate Arab consensus that would exclude Syria and the PLO.

Meanwhile, barred from the peace-making process, Syria is continuing to beef up its forces, with Soviet help, in a bid to achieve "strategic parity" with Israel and increase its chances of obtaining by force what it feels it is being denied by negotiation.

This process has greatly heightened the tension in eastern Lebanon in recent weeks, with another mutually costly round of fighting between the Israeli and Syrian troops in the area, either accidental or by design, a never absent possibility.

The writer is the Middle East Affairs correspondent of The Jerusalem Post.

THE IGNORANCE displayed by today's world statesmen about elementary, often crucial, facts — particularly in foreign affairs — has lost the power to astonish. The Middle East, about which they all pontificate so readily, is a specially fertile field for their failings. Most important here inevitably are the pronouncements of American spokesmen, directly involved as they are in its problems.

Two illuminating examples of recent years spring to mind. Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig in putting up a defence of the Saudi Arabians' unwillingness to accept an American deterrent task force on their soil, explained that the Saudis had bitter recollections of their subjection to colonial rule. It so happens that they never were under any colonial rule. On the contrary: Saudi Arabia itself has repeatedly forced its own rule upon weaker Arab peoples.

President Carter manifested an ignorance of much greater significance. His escort on a tour of Jerusalem in 1979 (Ariel Sharon) told him that the Kingdom of Jordan was Palestine, eastern Palestine, originally included in the British Mandate. Mr. Carter was flabbergasted. He turned to his companion, National Security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski. "Is this true?" he asked. (Brzezinski, *nebuchadnezzar*, could not but confirm the news).

Mere human ignorance, however, cannot possibly explain a brief statement made last week by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Following the breakdown of the talks between King Hussein and Yasser Arafat, Shultz accused the Arab states of having "made a mistake" in recognizing the PLO as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

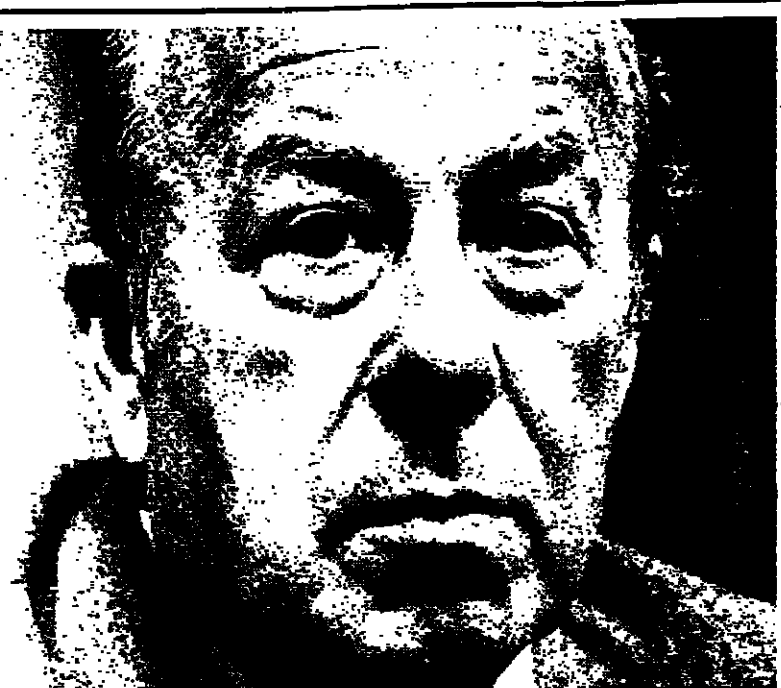
This charge is equivalent to describing as a mistake a father's acknowledgement of the paternity of his begotten son. It was the Arab states which created the PLO — in its component parts and nurtured it as their agency for building up a constant terror front in the campaign to weaken and ultimately destroy Israel. The PLO's "Palestinian Covenant", setting out that aim of destruction, is no more than a codification of the purpose of the Arab states.

After all, in 1948 (16 years before the PLO was born), their self-confident leaders announced that their invasion of Western Palestine was designed to destroy the embryo Jewish State, root and branch. All they asked of the Arabs living in the area was to get out of the way until victory was won.

After their second attempt, in 1967, annihilate Israel, in which they publicly proclaimed their purpose, the Arab leaders came to the conclusion that the image of a large nation, sprawling over 14 million sq. km. of territory trying to crush the minuscule Jewish State, was not pleasing to the Western eye. They consequently applied camouflage. Onto the centre of the stage was brought the small "Palestinian people," described as having been driven out of its homeland by Zionist aggression, fuelled by Western imperialism. The

Washington's 'Arab mistake'

By SHMUEL KATZ



George Shultz

(Camera Press)

prestigious Egyptian journal *Al-Musawwar* (December 1968) explained: "The masses of the Palestinian people are only the advance-guard of the Arab nation... a plan for rousing world opinion in stages, as it would not be able to understand or accept a war by a hundred million Arabs against a small state."

THE INFRASTRUCTURE and the auxiliary services for building the PLO were provided from the beginning by the Arab states. Finance came from the wealthy oil states, with the Saudis contributing an ever-increasing part. Training facilities were provided by Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Jordan; arms poured in from all of them. All provided the PLO with diplomatic "cover" for moving men and arms across frontiers and ensuring shelter for perpetrators of terror operations. Arab embassies became bases for those operations.

Not least significant were the outpourings of approbation and applause throughout the Arab states at every new murder of Israeli civilians by the PLO. The massacre of schoolchildren at Ma'alot, the murder of Olympic sportsmen at Munich, were hailed as heroic military operations.

The PLO needed the Arab states' official "recognition" after its expulsion from Jordan in order to block Hussein's claim to "represent the Palestinian people." That recognition, at the Rabat Conference (October 1974) was fortified by a renewed unanimous pledge — to support the PLO in all spheres and at all levels. This pledge was repeated frequently in later years by Arab leaders.

They thus solemnly reaffirmed their acceptance of their share of

responsibility for the PLO's future outrages.

Meanwhile, the PLO had become a valued client also of the USSR, which provided officers' training courses in Eastern Europe; and became the PLO's major supplier of arms of all kinds.

Is there need now to recount how the PLO, so lavishly funded and equipped, grew in power and influence, how — in addition to its central role as the thrusting Arab sword against Israel — it now developed two other major roles? In collaboration with Syria, it served as the main force for the destruction of Lebanon and its Christian society; and (in evident collaboration with the Soviets), it became the hub of international terror, reaching out from Beirut to the whole world. Until its power was broken by Israel in 1982.

EVIL AS the purpose of the Arabs has been promoting the terrorist movement, and gruesome as has been its execution, it does reflect a purpose perceived as the "right" of the Arab race and as serving the greater glory of Islam. What moral warrant is there for the permissive, the benevolent attitude of the U.S. towards that undertaking? Throughout all the years of PLO rampage, not once did the U.S. utter a word of reproach or disapprobation of the Arab states' support for, and participation in PLO acts.

On the contrary, nobody doubted that the U.S. "recognized" the PLO as the "sole representative," etc. The only obstacle to its actually negotiating with the PLO was its undertaking to Israel (in return for Israel's painful concessions in Sinai in 1975); and how irksome

Washington found it to honour that restraint! Certainly since the Carter presidency, Washington virtually impudently put the PLO to utter words that could justify negotiating with it. And did not sundry U.S. diplomats by devious maneuvers make direct contact with PLO leaders?

Of real impact on events was the protection the U.S. afforded the terrorist organization, shielding it against Israel's efforts to counteract, defeat and destroy it. Sometimes Washington ignored, always it minimized, the enormity of PLO outrages. A regular ploy of administration spokesmen was their "inability to identify" the perpetrators (sometimes even after the PLO had issued a boastful bulletin on an exploit).

U.S. diplomacy, however, went far beyond whitewashing. It kept up sustained pressure on Israel to refrain from significant action against the PLO. This indeed sums up its behaviour on Lebanon, throughout the years of PLO murder, rapine and international subversion.

It was under U.S. pressure that Israel agreed to end the Litani Operation in 1978 and agreed to the introduction of the UNIFIL force — which soon facilitated the return of the PLO.

When Israel was compelled once more to launch a campaign against the PLO in 1981, does one have to recall Washington's knee-jerk reaction to the urgent appeal by Arafat (transmitted through Riyadh) to press Israel to halt her attacks — lest the PLO structure collapse within days?

The "cease-fire" then foolishly agreed to by Israel was predictably exploited by the PLO to prepare the tremendous build-up of Soviet arms uncovered by the IDF in the subsequent Operation Peace for Galilee. The U.S. was unable to prevent that operation; but it did its utmost to weaken it and to frustrate its salutary consequences. None of the PLO barbarities towards the Lebanese people between 1975 and 1982, which came to light during the operation, evidently weakened in the least Washington's resolve to cushion the defeat of the PLO.

The thrust of this policy has been maintained to this day — throughout the painful negotiations between Israel and Lebanon. With relentless consistency, Washington has tried to block every Israeli proposal to ensure the peace and security of Southern Lebanon and of northern Israel and to help put teeth into Lebanese independence in the Syrian and PLO encroachment. With equally determined consistency, Washington has pressed for measures (such as entrusting security in Southern Lebanon once more to the porous UNIFIL and the exclusion of the indomitable Major Haddad) which would obviously facilitate the return of the PLO.

WHAT GEORGE SHULTZ has glimpsed is not an "Arab mistake." It is an abysmal American blunder. It is the historic continuing absurdity of U.S. policy in the Middle East: a world power tied to the constraints of Arab ambitions and fantasies — to the delight of its ill-wishers and the dismay of its friends.

METAMORPHOSIS

By ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

distinctions between the political and the professional role.

As Prof. Daniel Shoshoni has pointed out in his recently published *Israeli Democracy: The Middle of the Journey*, both the ideological and the professional models provide acceptable modes of civilian control of the military. In Rafal's case, the ideological model is problematical, because the ideology is problematical. That Rafal has never seen it as such is a product of innocence, perhaps his most appealing quality, and of puerility, which is somewhat less engaging.

For him, the ideology of the state is Zionism, and he would vigorously reject any suggestion that his loyalty

to Zionism is partisan in any sense. Zionism means for him Jewish settlement in all of Eretz Yisrael. Opponents of Zionism, as he understands it, he terms anti-Zionists. He questions not so much the soundness of their views, but rather their legitimacy.

RAFUL HAS, therefore, taken his stand on one side of a major cleavage in Israeli politics. His attitude to those on the other side is just that — towards those on the other side.

He relates to Yossi Sarid, not as a public servant to an elected member of the legislature, but to some one on the other side. His emphasis on Eretz Yisrael, not on the State of Israel, applies to his gut

feelings as to his priority of loyalties.

While he may have called Sarid a liar in a fit of anger, his asinine ditty was composed in advance with due reflection.

Rafal once explained the military successes of Iran against Iraq as due, among other factors, to the fact that the Iranians are not Arabs. His contempt for the Arabs is undisguised.

That he conceives of them in terms of a stereotype is not necessarily racist. He can take a Bashir Jemayel to his bosom as "almost one of our own." He thinks of the Arabs in terms of a stereotype, because it is essentially the only way he knows how to think.

This applies to his equation of settlement in all of Eretz Yisrael with Zionism. It combines with his very genuine commitment to the educational function of the military in Israel. No chief-of-staff has spent so much time talking to school children. He sincerely believes that his propagation of what he calls Zionism spreads and strengthens the national credo, rather than a highly debatable position in an ongoing controversy, in which there are many shades of grey between black and white.

IN THE PERIOD before the war in Lebanon, Rafal's education of the public became pure lobbying, war-mongering in the most precise sense. His appeal for public support for military action in Lebanon was a flagrant violation of basic democratic norms.

Military leaders in Israel have lobbied before on behalf of their policy positions, as in the waiting period before the Six Day War. But they have done so to the decision-

makers, not to the public and not in public.

Rafal's faith in military solutions seems part of a disturbing cultural change. Violence itself seems to be valued differently from the past, let alone the institutionalized violence of the military.

The lack of impact the Kahan Report has had on significant sectors of public opinion is a disturbing sign. Rafal's interventions in the process of military justice may have made their contribution to this process, but they did not initiate it.

The killing of civilians in the Litani Campaign took place before Rafal dealt as he did with the offenders.

A metamorphosis in the role of the military, if combined with a metamorphosis in cultural values, could be an awesome development. It is the stuff of which uneasy dreams are made. What will be our national image when we awake?

The writer, a member of Kibbutz Deganya Aleph, is a political scientist.

AS RAFAEL EITAN awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, he found himself transformed into a gigantic insect. Or perhaps it was only into a civilian. A bad case of bottle fatigue.

The change in the political role of the chief of staff that Rafal has wrought is truly Kafkaesque. It seems unrelated to the factors that normally influence the status of the military in Israel. There is ground for suspicion that it reflects not only the image of Rafal but more fundamental change in the society.

Unlike Moshe Dayan, an illustrious predecessor as chief-of-staff, Rafal was never a political activist in the party under whose leaders he served, before becoming chief-of-staff. Rafal appears to have had less independence than did Dayan, a function of Ben-Gurion's non-military background, as compared to that of the successive defence ministers of the Likud governments for most of Rafal's term of office.

His immediate predecessor,

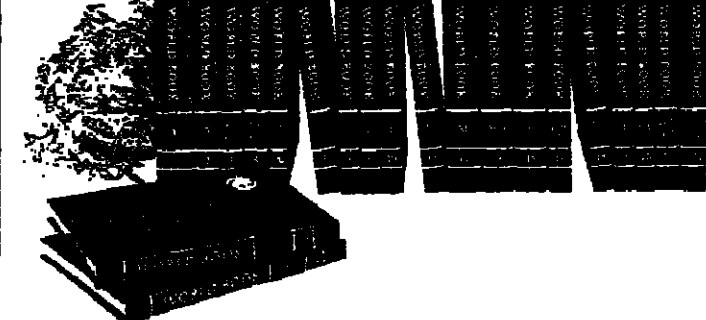
Mordechai Gur, had an independence of decision resulting from cabinet disunity in the last Labour government — centred around the Rabin-Peres rivalry — which was only occasionally a factor for Rafal.

While not more independent than his predecessors, Rafal has innovated in ways that touch the fundamentals. It is a metamorphosis that may well not carry over to his successor. But that it could happen even once is frightening enough.

For the first time, the image has been presented of a chief-of-staff whose acceptance of civilian control is a function of his identification with the ideology of the state and with the political goals of its leaders, rather than of his professional status, in which the political decisions are properly left to others.

Begin certainly did nothing to discourage this, and his practice of having the chief-of-staff attend cabinet meetings (never countenanced by Ben-Gurion) contributed to the blurring of relevant

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The year after Yamit

By GIDEON RAFAEL

TWELVE MONTHS AGO, the country went through one of its periodic febrile fits which, in recent years, have seized it with increasing frequency. Settlers vowed to resist their evacuation from the Yamit enclave until the bitter end; zealots strengthened themselves in the synagogue; followers of Rabbi Meir Kahane's pagan cult threatened to perish in their bunker; fanatics mobilized from outside manned the ramparts; and a motley bunch of wild-eyed and tough-fisted desperadoes attacked the troops sent to execute the government's will.

Rabbis blessed the rebels; cabinet ministers encouraged them surreptitiously; prominent Knesset members incited them publicly; the chief-of-staff negotiated with them; and the government apologized weekly for inconveniencing them.

The outburst of lawlessness accompanying the evacuation of Yamit initiated a sequence of far-reaching consequences for the lifestyle of Israel and its relations with its Arab neighbours.

The last act of the withdrawal from Sinai, instead of stimulating the promising beginnings of the peace process, stifled its progress.

Yamit will be remembered not as the last chapter in the implementation of the peace treaty, but as the first major violent attempt to subvert the law of Israel.

The PLO, although crushed in Southern Lebanon and driven out of Beirut, managed to gain more international recognition and political support — disproportionate to its real strength — than it had disposed of before the war.

It was Yasser Arafat's double dealing rather than King Hussein's irresolution and Begin's rejection which derailed Reagan's peace initiative.

Regardless of the role the PLO strives to play in the determination of the future of the Palestinian people, one thing is evident: the war in Lebanon, instead of removing the Palestinian problem from the international agenda, has elevated it to a place of high priority.

Not only did the war fail to establish Sharon's "New Order" in Lebanon, it strengthened the menacing Soviet presence in Syria.

Reliance on the determination of the United States to deter direct Soviet military involvement in an Arab-Israeli war has always been a mainstay of Israel's foreign and defence policy. The reliability and credibility of the American commitment depends to a large degree on the firmness and closeness of the relations between the United States and Israel.

The more misunderstandings and

One hundred years of war are the enticing prospects offered in the people to condition it for a bleak life in a peaceless environment populated by implacable enemies. Force, violence and brutality grow in the scorched earth of inhumanity.

Such a trinity does not fortify the nation, as its advocates and practitioners pretend, it saps its strength. Wise men in Israel did always remember the warning which went forth from Zion, that those who live by the sword will perish by it.

BUT NOT ONLY the sword is a tool of violence. The tongue can be no less damaging. The air of Israel resounds with stridency. Invectives are replacing arguments. A lively exchange of views would miss its point were it not spiced with references to the mental state of the disputant and a colourful variety of zoological allusions. When the arguing mutes become silent and the guns begin to speak, the adversary is not shot or killed, but liquidated, a term used by the arch enemies of the Jewish people.

And when the first soldier of the country proposes his measures how to cope with juvenile Arab stone-throwers, he assures his startled audience that the reaction of the Palestinians would not differ from

It was not piety, but pyromania that moved the gang which conspired to storm the Temple Mount. They were not seeking a niche to pray, but a provocation to incense Arab emotions to a point of conflagration likely to consume any prospect for continued Arab-Israeli coexistence and to jeopardize, ultimately, Israel's very existence.

Where is the government whose duty it is to check the perilous aberrations? Instead of alerting the people to the dangers, it dulls its senses. It fosters its illusion of undisturbed well-being. It swamps the country with imported consumer goods and drains its export capability by ill-conceived monetary policies.

Foreign debts are piling up and resources are dwindling. The Treasury's printing press has become one of Israel's most productive industries, registering a monthly record output of nearly IS9 billion. The government has failed to stimulate aliya and stem yerida.

But it builds towns in Judea and Samaria that are devoid of permanent residents or assured sources of employment, while it neglects the settlement of the underpopulated Negev and Galilee. It plants settlements in the heart of densely Arab-populated Samaria, which will not provide rest and safety for the Jews, but provokes unrest and turmoil among the Arabs.

THIS, THEN, was the year that was, when Israel moved from the shifting sands of Yamit to the craggy mountains of Lebanon; when we consumed more of our material, moral and human substance than in any of the 35 preceding years of our independence.

But it was also the year when 400,000 citizens rallied to manifest in an outcry, reverberating throughout the world, their abhorrence of the abject crime committed in the camps of Sabra and Shatilla and forced the government to investigate the outrage.

It was the year when the president of the state guided a perplexed people and gained its grateful affection.

It was the year when soldiers fought with unflinching resolution and risked their lives to save comrades in distress; when exhausted fighting men shared their field rations with captured terrorists; when a brilliant young brigade commander displayed civil courage and military responsibility by refusing to lead his men in a useless and wasteful assault on West Beirut.

It was the year when a policeman invested his lottery prize in the rehabilitation of an ex-convict, when Naomi Shemer, Haim Hefer and Moshe Wilensky received the Israel prize, and when multitudes of hard-working citizens conscientiously fulfilled their responsibilities towards their families and the state paying their spiralling taxes and putting up stoically with a prolonged deprivation of medical services.

It was a year of disquieting official indifference and much private grief. It was a year of war; a year when perilous ill-winds were sown.

To spare the country reaping the turbulence of the whirlwind, the people must be awakened to the realities and the forces of reason, responsibility and rectitude must close ranks.



Above: the only building intact in what was Yamit is the synagogue. Below: Capt. Susan Wagner of Pittsburgh, Pa. is in charge of a company in the MFO and commands 80 men and 12 women soldiers, including Americans Specialist James Haslam (left) and Private First Class Brad Jones.

Desert duty

Story and Photos By RICHARD OESTERMAN

THIS MONDAY, April 25, marks the first anniversary of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai, and its commander, Norwegian General Fredrik Bull-Hansen, says, "I believe we have solved the task given to us, that neither Israelis nor Egyptians feel their security threatened in the area where we have responsibility."

Gen. Bull-Hansen, a tall and lanky artillery officer who formerly was commander-in-chief of a 1,500 km. district in northern Norway and in 1956-57 served as a captain in the UNEF in Sinai, describes MFO's first year of operations as "a year full of interesting challenges."

His force of 2,600 soldiers, comprising contingents from 10 countries, and an additional 400 civilians from abroad and another 400 locally employed civilians, reports on violations of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty to both governments, as well as to the office of director general of the MFO, located in Rome.

"Violations occur, but I cannot go into details, as such information may be used politically by one or the other party in a way which may not further peace in the area," he says.



General Fredrik Bull-Hansen, commander of the MFO

Colombia, Fiji and the U.S. each provide an infantry battalion to MFO, while specialized units are sent by Australia, France, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the U.S. and Uruguay. In addition, Norway contributes four staff officers for the military headquarters.

"It has been very rewarding to try to melt together this multinational force," Gen. Bull-Hansen says. "As an example I can mention that on one engineering team building a road, there are seven members comprising five nationalities and three language groups. The cooperation between the various nationalities is excellent. It is quite unique — a sociological experiment that goes behind the peace process."

MFO is the biggest peace keeping operation ever staged outside the framework of the UN. The force commander says that if one has a situation in which the UN cannot provide a peace-keeping force, and such a force is important and a precondition for peace, one has to look for other possibilities outside the UN, as was the case in Sinai.

MFO is stationed in zone C, the northernmost of the three sectors into which Sinai is divided. In zone A, near the Suez Canal, the Egyptians are allowed an infantry division up to 22,000 troops, and in the adjoining zone B, they are authorized to have four battalions totaling 4,000 soldiers. In zone D, north of the international border, Israel is allowed four battalions of 4,000 men. From zone C, where the only authorized Egyptian force is police, MFO observes the situation in the whole area and reports on violations.

General Bull-Hansen invited this writer for a helicopter tour of the area under MFO control, including a low flight over what was Yamit, now heaps of bulldozed houses with only one building, the synagogue, standing intact in the midst of devastation. One recognizes the places where the supermarket, the school and Yamit's best restaurant were. It is shocking to see what became of this dream city. It looks as if it was flattened by a huge hammer. The few Egyptians staying there live in tents on the outskirts.

No society can preserve its freedom when its law is violated with impunity and its enforcement impaired by partiality.

differences that separate them, the less credible will be the American commitment in the eyes of Israel's adversaries. The growing friction between Jerusalem and Washington, aggravated by the war in Lebanon, is liable to corrode the protective effect of the American deterrent.

The danger of its devaluation should be a matter of gravest strategic concern to the government, outweighing by far the importance of local tactical security arrangements.

The policy pursued by the government in Lebanon and in the administered territories, since the evacuation of Yamit, has not only contributed to the deepening of Israel's international isolation, but also to the freezing of its relations with Egypt, which a year ago were slowly and steadily warming up but which are now approaching a state of permanent frost.

WITHOUT DIMINISHING the concern for the gravity of our position abroad, the situation as it evolved at home gives rise to particular anxiety.

Since the beginning of the Begin era, the shadow of the heavy hand of Revisionism has increasingly obscured the bright face of Zionism. In the course of the last year, the eclipse has gained unprecedented momentum.

The overriding aspiration of the government is the establishment of Israel's rule over all the land between the river and the sea. Not the redemption of the people, but the conquest of the land is its primary concern.

It covets the soil of the country, but sears the soul of the people. It is indifferent to the anxieties of the Arab population in our midst, tolerates its abuse and ignores its wrath. It holds that force rather than compromise is the most cogent argument in the settlement of disputes between nations.

that of doped vermin. Those who have forgotten who used that term and against whom, are advised to consult the literature of a certain German period!

It will be of small comfort for our Arab neighbours to know that similar verbal aberrations have infested our internal discussion, too. Responsible for such excesses are those politicians who incite the masses assembled in the public squares with their defamatory rhetoric.

Unrestrained use of language leads to indiscriminate use of force. The verbal blast is the forerunner of the deadly bomb.

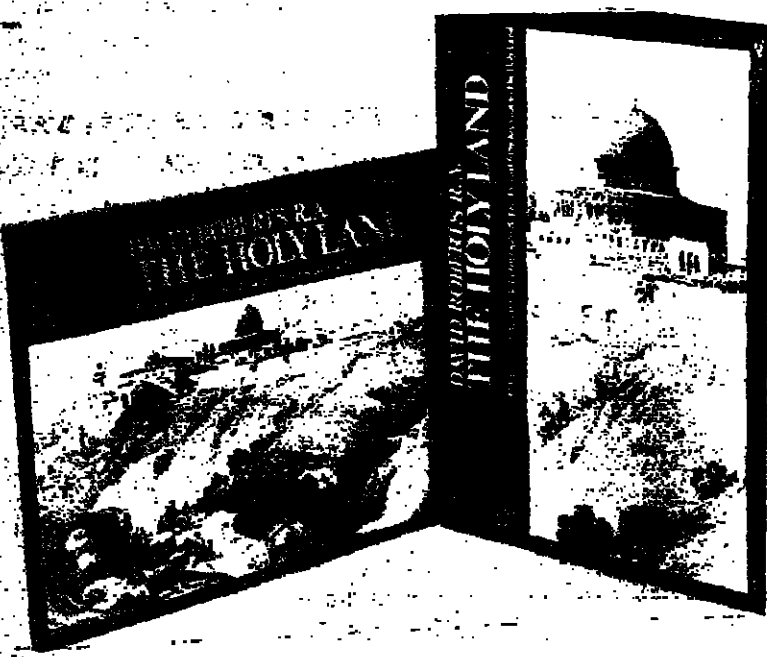
The shock released by the hand-grenade, which killed Emil Grunzweig, is still fresh, but the police file of this despicable deed seems to accumulate dust. More than two months have passed and the investigation is still probing into a variety of directions, all of them open-ended.

Where is the ingenuity and zeal the police displayed recently in Tel Aviv, where it discovered in no time the alleged murderer of a stock broker? Is the Grunzweig file going to suffer the same fate as that of the three West Bank mayors?

NO SOCIETY can preserve its freedom when its law is violated with impunity and its enforcement impaired by partiality. Stone-throwing is a serious delict, whether committed in Dahariya or Mea She'arim.

The process which began in Yamit, where vigilantes took the law into their own hands, has dangerously gained ground. Meir Kahane, who profanes the rabbinical profession, is the trendsetter. His gangs incite, demolish, harass, assault and shoot. They are neither outlawed, nor is their leader taken into custody. His ways of lawlessness have infected other worshippers of violence.

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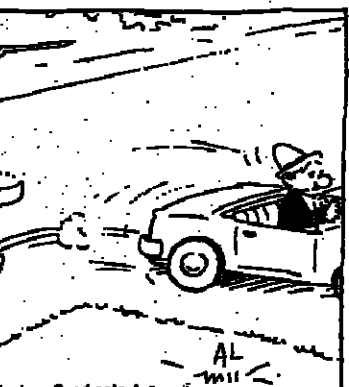
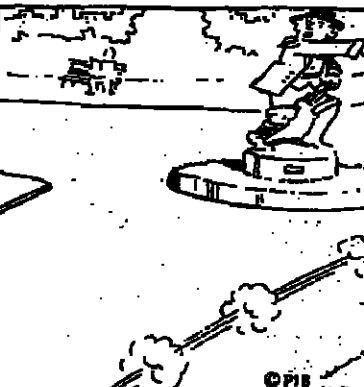
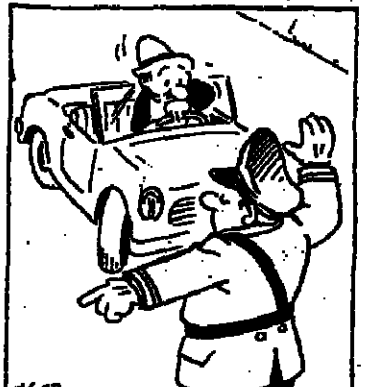
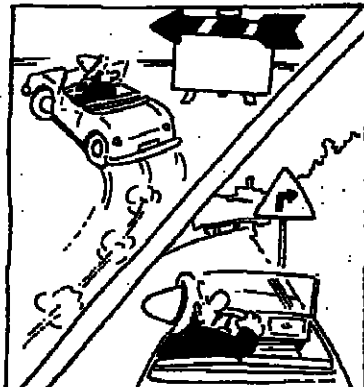
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CHANCES ARE that you can count on one hand the number of women you've seen driving buses in this country. Being a curious transportation correspondent, I decided to investigate this situation, and came up with some revealing — if not downright startling — information.

To understand the problems facing a potential (woman) bus driver, we must first examine the history and policies of the nation's two largest bus companies: the Dan and Egged co-operatives.

Originally, when the first co-operatives were formed in Israel in the early 1920s, they were considered to be truly socialist enterprises. The bus drivers were the owners of their companies; no hired workers were accepted. Subsequently, hired drivers were taken on and, after a trial period, were allowed to join the co-operatives if they purchased stock in them (once the equivalent of the price of a brand-new bus).

Both Dan and Egged today employ hired workers (Egged has 2,000 or so), but it is no easy feat for them to become co-operative members. No one is accepted as a Dan or Egged member unless he is the son of a member and is under the age of 32.

What about a co-operative member's daughter?

"There is no question about it," said a high-ranking official of one of the bus companies. "She cannot become a member."

What can she do, I asked? "She should get married and then the son-in-law will enjoy the benefits that a bona fide son of a co-operative member would have."

Until a few years ago, neither Dan nor Egged had any women drivers. Today, women have managed to penetrate this formally all-male domain, but nearly all of them are temporary drivers. Others have been trained to drive buses only in emergencies.

"At Egged," according to co-operative spokesman Gideon Talmor, "there is no policy relating to women bus drivers. We are ruled in this respect by the Emergency Economic Committee — Melah — which trains women bus drivers for us during times of emergency. These women have shown a special interest in driving buses, otherwise they wouldn't have volunteered for

this job."

In all my talks with male bus drivers, I didn't find one that was willing to accept a woman bus driver as his equal. Nor did I find any — except Talmor — who agreed to be identified in this article.

I ORGANIZED an impromptu discussion on the subject of women drivers, inviting a few of these anonymous fellows to voice their opinions. If I hadn't heard or seen the drivers while they answered my questions, I would have believed that they were pulling my leg or joking with me. But they weren't. They were totally earnest in their comments.

They agreed, rationally enough, that there are no physical reasons why women can't drive buses. Today, I was told, there is no need, as there once was, for a driver to be strong. The dreadfully huge bus tires that once caused problems for even the strongest drivers are no longer changed by them. If a tire gets a puncture these days, the driver pulls over and waits for a mobile garage unit to come and fix it.

So, I asked innocently, what bugs the male drivers about women joining their ranks?

"A woman has a period every month and at least one day every month she does not come into work because of this. In government offices and in banks, women are allowed to remain home one day a month without even bringing a sick slip," said one driver. "But a bus co-operative is not an office."

"Just think what would happen on a certain line if it was dominated by women bus drivers. On a certain day, four or five of them would not report to work. What would we tell the angry passengers that will have to wait a longer time for their bus to arrive?"

A second driver butted in, "Forget the period. Think about the babies and children. If they are sick, the father never stays home to care for them — this is the mother's job. So a couple of more days she will not report to work."

A Dan co-operative official who said he was speaking as a driver and not as an official, made a different point. As a husband and as father of a daughter, he said he would not be able to sleep at night if his wife or

Women behind the wheel



Un-cooperatives

Male bus drivers at Egged and Dan told Yitzhak Oked that they do not accept women drivers as their equals.

daughter were out driving buses.

"As sometimes happens, women can drive a nearly empty bus with one or two passengers who can start molesting them. Again, waiting at the end of the line if they are alone, they can be molested — or worse still, raped. This could even be an invitation to be robbed. Most drivers carry money from sales of tickets. Even male bus drivers can get robbed, but the would-be robber will have second thoughts before trying to do this if the male bus driver is young and burly."

The Dan driver also mentioned complaints his co-operative received from religious passengers who are offended by the fact that they are being driven around by a woman. Certain religious elements

— and here we are not talking of ultra-religious Jerusalemites — had evidently threatened to boycott Dan bus lines serviced by women bus drivers.

ANOTHER excuse to ban women drivers that was voiced by interviewees, was that the situation of male and female bus drivers working together could lead to love affairs, and ruin the family life of co-operative members.

I heard this said many times and in many versions (some bordering on Levantine fantasies) with the bus drivers talking in serious tones, or even lowering their voices when they gave this excuse as though they were ashamed, or were trying to tell me in a semi-secret way that they

had heard of a case or two of a male driver being "tempted" to have an affair with a female bus driver.

I asked spokesman Talmor why Egged does not allow women to become members of its co-operative. (His answer more or less reflected the situation at the Dan co-operative, too.)

"Egged at present is not accepting new members. Only sons of co-operative members are being received (up to the age of 32), to compensate for the members that go out on pension every year."

He emphasized that this was not discriminatory against women, since male bus drivers who were not sons of co-operative members were not being accepted either.

Since the withdrawal from Sinai,

Talmor said, Egged has had less work, and after the pull-back from Lebanon, they will have even less. Also he noted that more and more people are buying private cars. Even if there is no significant drop in the service, there is certainly no increase in it which would warrant an increase in the bus-driving work force.

Questioned why daughters of co-operative members are not able to become members, Talmor said that he had not heard of any daughter requesting to become a co-operative member.

Egged employs extra drivers — both men and women — particularly during certain peak seasons. They do not receive *kivut* (tenure) as they are not needed all year round.

I asked Talmor point-blank what he had against women bus drivers. I must admit, he was frank, willing to express his views and stand by them.

"I believe that there are professions which should be for one sex. A purely women's profession that comes to my mind is a cosmetician. I cannot visualize a male cosmetician."

"This is why I believe that bus driving should be left in male hands. It is hard work, many hours of work, which sometimes requires one to sleep away from home for several days. I believe that women are simply not built for such a life."

TALMOR added that the present situation at Egged — with only a very small number of women bus drivers being employed usually, on a non-permanent basis — was the best possible one. Because the numbers are not large, these few women bus drivers can be "positively" discriminated against, he said.

As an example, Talmor talked about his wife, who he described as "steering-wheel crazy" and has completed a bus driving course for Melah.

"Now she works on a part-time basis as a bus driver. She does not need this for economic reasons — she simply does it because she likes to drive a bus. She now wakes up every morning at 5.30 a.m., drives a bus from 6.30 till 9 a.m. when she rushes to open a store she owns. She again drives a bus for another two hours in the afternoon."

"She likes the work," said

Talmor, "because she gets easy lines near home. Before this, you could hardly get her out of bed before 7.30 in the morning! I know of several more cases like hers of women bus drivers who do this as a sort of a hobby, or as a change of pace from their regular jobs, and they like it."

But, he claimed, "If they would have to put in a long working day and go on long hauls like most of the male bus drivers, it would then turn out for them to be at best just another job or place or work; or at worst, a drag."

From extended discussions with male bus drivers, I realized that there are some chauvinist attitudes prevailing which don't help the situation of their female counterparts and would-be counterparts. But I also found that the hands of the various women's organizations are not "clean" either.

I talked to a Na'amat spokeswoman several months ago and again quite recently, and did not hear that there were any campaigns being planned or conducted by that organization on behalf of women bus drivers. Nor does it appear that Na'amat is making any effort to persuade unemployed young women to learn bus driving as a profession. And Egged and Dan are on Na'amat's "turf" — they are all affiliated with the Histadrut.

There is a special section of the Histadrut which is in charge of protecting the rights of its women employees. However, according to the women bus drivers I spoke to, this department has done nothing to help them.

Also, I have not seen any promotional materials prepared by the various women's organizations relating to women driving buses, or attacking this all-male bastion of the nation's workforce.

The bottom line is that Israel will probably not see any women members of bus co-operatives for a long time unless perhaps a daughter of a co-operative member makes a test case of trying to become a member, or some organization makes an issue of this by pressuring the co-operatives to open their doors for women. Of course, without several young women bus drivers who are willing to challenge the co-operatives, nothing will change.

ASIDE FROM being tragic, war is inconvenient. Food becomes scarce, other commodities are unavailable and public transportation is reduced, often drastically. But some 600 women are helping ease civilian discomfort during wartime by leaving jobs and homes and taking up their positions — behind the steering wheels of city buses.

"I think the reasons for doing this are the same for all women bus drivers," says Ellen Goldberg-Kedmy, a 26-year-old American immigrant, who recently completed the course and received her bus driver's licence. "We want to be useful in wartime, but none of us are the type who can sit and read to people in hospitals."

Other women drivers echo these sentiments. Expressing the need to do something "important" and "interesting" for their country, these drivers have rejected the traditional nurturing/mothering-type options available to women in times of crisis. Besides, they point out, hospitals are largely staffed by women. When men are called to duty great gaps are left in other areas, notably transportation.

On the practical level, wartime occupations for women are mainly volunteer and thus prohibitive to many, while bus driving brings remuneration. "If you have financial responsibilities you must provide," says Ulla Sterner, 45, who immigrated to Israel from Sweden 25 years ago. Sterner attended the first bus driving course open to women in 1975 and worked steadily last summer during the Lebanon operation. Driving a bus is, she says,

"a very good solution to personal and national problems."

In addition to a strong sense of obligation to Israel and the need to earn a salary, these women quite simply love to drive.

Kibbutz-bred Rachel Sheffi, 28, laughingly admits to having sneaked out at 4:00 a.m. to travel the highways. Aware of Goldberg-Kedmy's passion, her husband clipped the newspaper advertisement for women bus drivers. "He told me, 'Here — this is something you're going to want to do,'" she recalls. "The next day I signed up."

Although the women are of varying ages and hail from different countries, a pattern has emerged: all appear to be successful in their careers. A random sampling turned up a medical editor and MA student in public health; an authorized tour guide; an economist and an architect. All agreed that wartime women bus drivers are generally professionals in other fields, but were unable to explain why. "Maybe our intelligence helps us see the great need for bus driving," joked 38-year-old architect Neva Levy, born in France.

Perhaps it is only the serious nature of the women's permanent jobs that has spared the bus companies from pressure to change discriminatory practices. Women cannot be full-time employees of either the Egged or Dan bus companies and, as temporary staff, are not entitled to any benefits or privileges.

According to the women, the companies justify their policy by claiming that toilets and other facilities are not sufficiently equip-

Non-cooperatives

Roberta Rebold discovers that up to several hundred women may drive buses in times of emergency, but not one is regularly employed as a full-time driver.

ped and that, by law, women are prohibited from working night shifts. Says Levy: "Most of the women don't want to work more, but it's still not right. They should have the option."

Of more immediate concern are the problems encountered along the driving route. Told with humor and accented by shrugged shoulders and the odd shaking of the head, each woman relates her own "horror" story.

Driving through Jerusalem's ultra-religious neighborhoods presents the greatest problems. For example, during Sterner's apprenticeship, she and a male driving student following behind had to make several stops in an Orthodox religious area. Not only did her fellow student's bus fill up — and hers remain almost empty, she remembers, she was actually insulted: as she opened the door for a final pickup, a man flung an opened bag of trash at her.

Also, due to the strict religious laws governing touching between the sexes, an Orthodox man will often not hand anything directly to a woman. This meant, says Levy, that certain passengers would drop



their bus fares of tickets half a metre into her hand, thus considerably slowing the boarding process. Several such men even refused to enter Levy's bus.

The women have also had to contend with general prejudice. During one practice session, Sterner was called upon to transport a group of reserve soldiers to the Judean desert. Approaching the bus and seeing her behind the wheel, the commanding officer refused to board, crying, "It's a woman! This is impossible!" Only the urging of some of his men convinced him he had nothing to fear.

Levy encountered apprehension on a Tel Aviv-Dead Sea trip, where

she was part of a driving team. After her male partner had driven the Tel Aviv to Jerusalem leg, Levy took the driver's seat. "What's going on here?" asked the passengers. "I'm very tired," replied the driver, "so my wife is going to drive. Just to be safe, hold on to your seats." Halfway through the trip, he explained the situation and, for the first time, the passengers loosened their white-knuckled grips.

Generally, however, passengers are curious, but supportive, say the women. "Their first reaction is usually to just sit and watch. After they see you know what you're doing it's OK," says Goldberg-Kedmy. "Most people give you a fair chance."

There is no shortage of advice in Israel and that applies doubly to female drivers. Everybody knows this "best way" to take a corner, says Sterner. "Sometimes they even get out to guide and it's helpful," she adds.

"Most of the time people are nice, and happy to see me. Women especially are proud when I'm driving," says Levy. "Many people say 'good luck,' 'beautiful' or tell me I drive very well."

Despite the discrimination of the bus companies, the women agree that the image has been a help to them. Known for selectiveness, excellent benefits and pensions, Egged and Dan are largely respected.

The four-month driving course was extensive and demanding, says Goldberg-Kedmy, adding that half the candidates were rejected during a one-day trial. Together men and women study mechanics, traffic laws, English, defensive driving, geography, first aid and civics. Following these classes are written tests and a two-week six-hour-a-day stint of intensive driving.

To maintain high standards, the women are required to attend an annual three-day refresher course, held in Ashdod. This, like the initial instruction, is free of charge. "It's a great bonus," says Sterner. "These lessons are very expensive and I could never afford them on my own. I'm very grateful."

"I made great friends on the course and we pick up the threads every time I return to Ashdod," adds Levy.

Driving a bus provides an alternative for women who seek to relieve wartime discomfort outside the hospital or factory. "I wish they'd call us at different times, more often," says Goldberg-Kedmy, adding, "I also like the idea of uprooting the conviction that men have a monopoly on this kind of work."

'Greek Week'

To the strains of bouzouki music, the Tel Aviv Hilton this week opened its "Greek Week," organized together with Olympic Airlines and Sun Lines Cruises.

The event features Greek food in the hotel's restaurants, special performances in its night-club, and the sale of Greek doughnuts in its lobby.

On May 1, "Greek Week" festivities will move south for a stint at the Jerusalem Hilton. H.S.

Today is edited by Joanna Yehiel.



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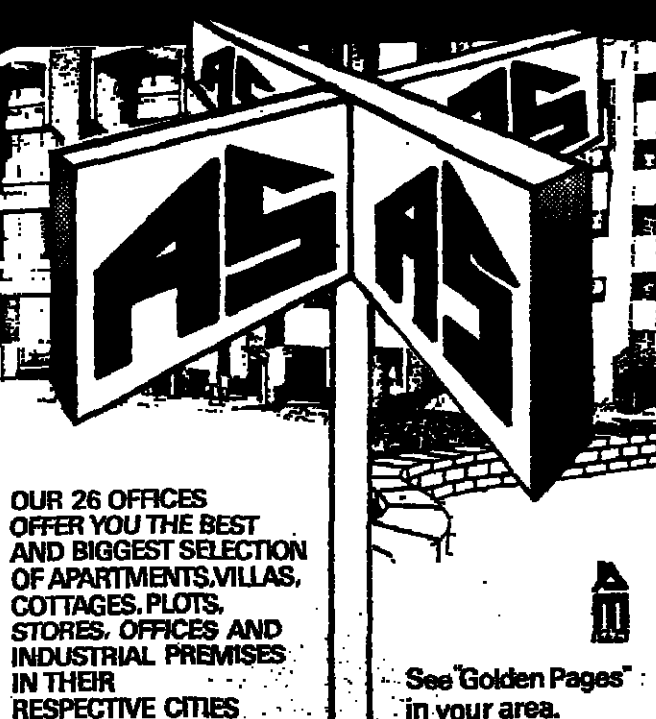
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Ramat Gan, have opened, Shabbat

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Model

Shades of January as prices drop

TEL AVIV. — The market took a nosedive yesterday which left many observers mystified and revived painful memories of the January collapse. All sectors of trading, with the exception of commercial banks, were sharply lower, with losses of 10% or more in evidence throughout.

A total of 121 securities fell by more than 5%. This was in addition to the 39 issues which were "sellers only." A mere eight securities were able to show gains of more than 5%, and only two were "buyers only."

Some of the issues that fell hardest were those which at one time were associated with the Rieger-Fishman group. There were suggestions in some quarters that the Rieger-Fishman group had not sold out its positions in these shares and was attempting to do so now.

Support for this theory could be mustered from the performance of Hassneh, which fell by 15%. These shares had been clearly associated with the Rieger-Fishman group. It is understood that the securities authority will shortly conclude its investigation into the allegations of irregularities in the management of mutual funds handled by the Rieger-Fishman group.

Accompanying the market slide was a rising trading volume as turnovers totalled approximately \$1.25 billion.

One of the paradoxes of the market was the support given to the shares of the First International Bank, which traded unchanged. It will be recalled that two days ago the bank released its quarterly financial results, which were very good. Yesterday there was an initial offer of \$15.7 million of these shares. The value of the offer was \$14.6m. The final turnover was \$15.8m, while the price remained

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN

unchanged. Obviously this total did not include the millions of shekels worth of these shares whose buy and sell orders were taken care of by banks and brokers before the market opened.

The action of the market can best be judged by noting that the General Share Index, banking shares excepted, was down by 2.97%.

Trading in bank shares was a matter of routine, with most prices rising by the predictable margins. However, as trading reached the Danot group, it emerged that the shares had come under severe selling pressure. Danot 1.0 was "sellers only," while the 5.0 issue was down by 10%. FIBI was also hit for a 10% loss.

Adunim and Mortgage and Development (r) were down by 10%.

In the specialized financial institution group the "sellers only" sign was flashed for the Contractors Centre, the Industrial Development Bank, and two Clal Leasing issues. In the case of the Industrial Development Bank it was the second consecutive session that these shares were "sellers only."

Insurance issues were severely hit,

with the Hassneh group leading the downward march. Menora 1.0 was a 10% loser and was matched by Zion Holdings 1.0.

Losses of 10% or more were registered by the following shares among service and trade companies: Lighterage 0.5, Teta 1.0 and 5.0, Delek (b), Magor, Nikuv 5.0, Consortium and Supersol 10.0.

Land development and real estate shares also retreated broadly. Azorim, Caesarea 0.1, Lifschitz 1.0 and Bayside 0.1 were all down by 10%.

Industrials turned a performance which was marred by the many issues that fell sharply. Alkol was down by 10.1% Hamshul 1.0 continued to fall and stood at 226, after a 10% drop. Kili 1.0 was "sellers only" for the second session.

Investment company equities also reflected major losses. The Israeli Corporation shares were down by 6.3% and 7.7%. Clal Industries was 10% lower. Incoba and Technology Store also posted 10% losses.

The oils were the hardest hit of all sectors as their index fell by 4.85%.

The shekel was devalued by 12 agorot. Despite reports of an impending larger devaluation the local currency has lost only 4% against the dollar since the beginning of this month.

The index-linked bond market was either stable or reflected small gains. Trading activity was dull and turnovers totalled only some \$151.5m.

U.S. Government reports economy on rise

WASHINGTON (AP). — The American economy, beginning recovery from the long recession, grew at the fastest pace in two years during the first three months of this year, the U.S. Government reports.

Figures on the first quarter's inflation-adjusted Gross National Product — the broadest measure of U.S. economic activity — were to

be released yesterday by the U.S. Commerce Department.

Commerce officials had estimated last month — before the quarter was even over — that real GNP was rising at an annual rate of about 4 per cent during the January-March period, the fastest pace since the 7.9 per cent rate of the same quarter of 1981.

The American economy had sunk at rates of over 5 per cent in the final quarter of 1981 and the first three months of 1982.

Some economists say continuing relatively high interest rates could help slow growth again in the current April-June quarter.

Whatever the growth in the next few months, economists agree the 1981-82 recession is indeed over.

Bank of Israel Exchange rates

April 22, 1983

U.S. dollar

British sterling

German mark

French franc

Dutch guilder

Swiss franc

Swedish krona

Norwegian krone

Danish krone

Finnish mark

Canadian dollar

Australian dollar

South African rand

Belgian franc (10)

Austrian schilling (10)

Italian lire (1,000)

Japanese yen (100)

Jordanian dinar

Lebanese pound

Egyptian pound

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Editor and
Managing DirectorTHE JERUSALEM
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Iyar 9, 5743 • Rajab 9, 1403

Watch on Syria

TENSION appears to be on the rise between Syria and Israel. On the Syrian side there have been large-scale army exercises and a redeployment of forces, and there are also reports of a deepening Soviet military involvement. But in briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Wednesday Defence Minister Moshe Arens was careful not to charge that Syria was actually bent on attack.

The Syrian moves in fact lend themselves to a variety of interpretations. One is that they reflect a process of "drawing conclusions" from last summer's war in Lebanon. Winter, which was especially harsh this year, would have hobbled any serious redeployment, but the advent of spring makes possible the bringing in of new army divisions and heavy armour.

Despite the Israeli denials of any such intentions, the Syrians may also be fearful that Israel is planning to oust their forces from Lebanon if agreement is reached between Jerusalem and Beirut for the withdrawal of Israeli forces but Damascus refuses to budge. The Syrians, misreading signals, could therefore be interpreting Israel's own counter moves in terms of this erroneous expectation.

Finally, however, the possibility cannot be wholly excluded that the Syrians do in fact have an offensive on their minds. They may foresee a situation sometime in the near future in which the balance of forces with Israel would be sufficiently even to warrant at least a renewed war of attrition or a limited conflict for some territory in the north. Whether their Russian allies would, for their own reasons, act to restrain the Syrians or to spur them on to new adventures, is itself one of the uncertainties.

Israel's response to the possibility of Syrian aggression has been spelled out clearly by Mr. Arens. This country, the defence minister indicated, would not stand for another war of attrition, and the Syrians need not expect a limited war to stay limited.

For the moment the view here is that a Syrian-initiated war is not in the offing. The fear is rather that misperception of the other side's aims may have a dynamic of its own which would lead to aggressive escalation, and possibly war.

Israel, for its part, must do everything in its power to prevent any such escalation.

Mr. Aridor's jitters

STRANGE noises have been heard in the Treasury corridors during the past few days, while the finance minister, Yoram Aridor, was away in America. They amount to an admission by senior Treasury officials that the country's foreign currency reserves are shrinking dangerously as a result of the policy of slow devaluation. To stanch the drain on foreign currency, a policy reversal will soon be necessary.

Slow devaluation was conceived as a major aid in the war on inflation. The argument was that moderate changes in the rates of exchange, coupled with moderate rises in government-determined prices, would lower the popular expectation of further rampaging inflation, and thus bring it down. But this "bubble" theory, sold to Mr. Aridor by his one-time advisor, Dr. Yakir Plessner, has been seen to burst with the publication of every recent monthly cost-of-living index, including the latest.

Excuses, to be sure, are never wanting to account for the refusal of the index to show any tapering off of inflation. If it isn't the high prices of fruits and vegetables, then it is the high prices of summer clothing. But the excuses fail to deceive the professionals, and the man-in-the-street, too, appears to shrug them off.

What the "bubble" theory has so far produced is plain to all: falling exports, rising imports, and a widening of the balance of payments gap. Treasury economists are not very much worried by the situation in exports, which they apparently believe will improve with the introduction of the newly decreed supports. But they are very much concerned by the effect of unrealistic rates of exchange on the encouragement of imports.

The country is being swamped with cheap imports, which hurt the domestic manufacturers and waste precious foreign currency. This scourge can only be countered by speeding up devaluation until realistic rates are re-established.

But there's the rub. Mr. Aridor is a very stubborn finance minister, and a shrewd politician to boot, and he will not easily make a U-turn that would be tantamount to a concession of failure. This is just where his Treasury lieutenants, some of them at least, come in. Taking advantage of his current absence, they are preparing the ground on their own for a controlled retreat from an experiment that has already cost the country dearly without netting it any visible benefits.

In the meantime, while Mr. Aridor is busy raising abroad the foreign currency which he himself says the country needs very badly, Israeli citizens are waging that his policy will indeed soon be reversed. They, for their part, are busy buying up cheap foreign currency in the expectation that it will soon rise in value.

Misreading the signals

By YOSEF TEKOAH

KING HUSSEIN'S decision, after seven months of procrastination, not to enter negotiations on the basis of President Reagan's plan, highlighted again the doubts regarding the wisdom of United States' policy in the Middle East. It does not require exceptional expertise to realize that this policy is damaging not only to Israeli interests. It is not necessary to be a Haig or a Mondale to see its grave implications from America's point of view.

Operation Peace for Galilee was a victory for the United States as much as for Israel. This was so not only because American weapons and military equipment, with an important input of Israeli high technology, proved victorious over Soviet arms and technology, but also because two Soviet satellites — Syria and the PLO — suffered heavy defeats.

In fact, this was almost the only American victory of this kind since World War II. The Free World still lives under the shadow of the debacles in Afghanistan, Iran and Nicaragua, not to mention Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Cuba, Vietnam, Angola and Ethiopia.

It appears that this victory was squandered by a remarkable lack of understanding and foresight.

Washington's policies since the siege of West Beirut have created a situation conducive to the PLO's political revival. Washington's opposition to the termination of hostilities by an immediate Israeli-Lebanese peace treaty, which would have confronted Syria and the Soviet Union with a new balance of power in the region (and would have redounded to the benefit of all friends of the United States, including Saudi Arabia and Egypt), and thereafter Washington's attitude in the Israel-Lebanon negotiations, have given time and opportunity to Syria and the Soviet Union to recover and to resume their old rejectionist machinations.

IF IT IS in America's interest, as it undoubtedly is, to broaden the framework of peace established (with U.S. assistance) by the treaty between Israel and Egypt, the chance was dismally missed in Lebanon.

If it is in America's interest to bring about the emergence of a new Lebanon, it is by now obvious that under the very eyes of ambassadors Habib and Draper, the country is sinking back into the mire of its past internal tribulations and inter-

national fragility. Above all, Washington misread the signals from the Arab capitals (which did not lift a finger on behalf of the Palestinians during the fighting in Lebanon) and gave priority to the question of a Palestine homeland, in addition to the existing one in Jordan over the fate of Lebanon and the challenge of turning over a new leaf for that tormented land and people.

The concern Israelis feel about America's policies is due not merely to their effect on Israel's vital rights, but also to the sincere wish of most of us to see America succeed on the international scene.

Indeed, probably no other nation feels itself as closely identified with the United States, the values it stands for and the global interests it seeks to protect, as much as Israel.

However, throughout its existence, Israel has had to face American policies which it could not accept. Time and again, Israel has had to decline American advice and proceed as it saw fit, on its own. In certain cases, the United States itself later conceded its errors and altered its positions.

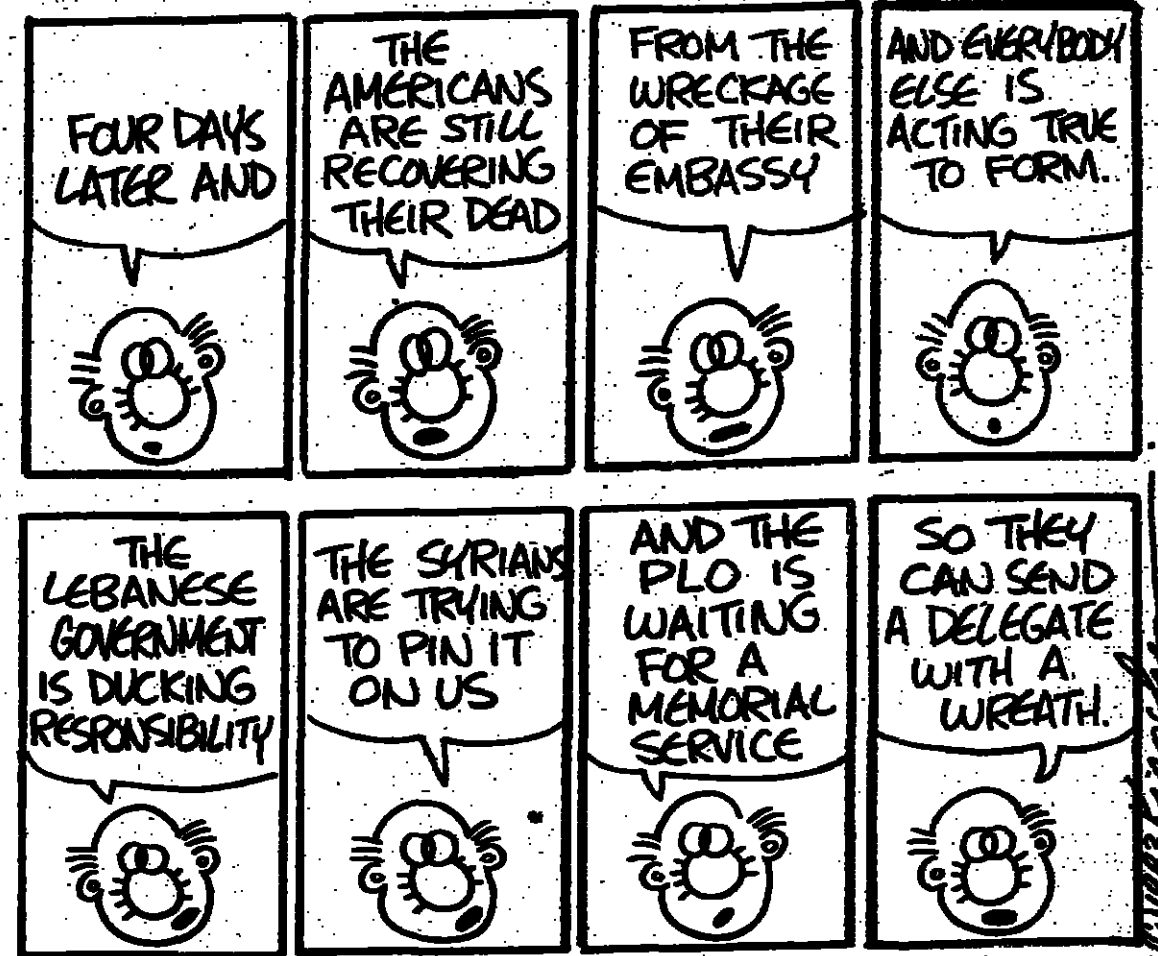
UNDOUBTEDLY, the most dramatic divergence occurred at the time of Israel's declaration of independence. In November 1947, the United States supported the United Nations resolution which called for the establishment of a Jewish state.

However, when the Arab states resorted to force of arms in order to prevent the implementation of that resolution, the United States, together with a majority of United Nations members, shifted its support to the establishment of a United Nations trusteeship over Palestine.

In the weeks preceding the termination of the British mandate in Palestine, Washington's counsel to the Jewish yishuv in the Land of Israel was to shelve *sine die* the plans for independence and accept the creation of an international regime. On May 14, 1948, at the very time when David Ben-Gurion read Israel's Declaration of Independence at an historic assembly in Tel Aviv, the American representative to the United Nations, Senator Warren Austin, was delivering a speech in favour of placing Palestine under a United Nations trusteeship.

No sooner was Israel's Declaration of Independence a fact than the United States became the first country in the world to recognize

The Friday Dry Bones



Israel. Thus, had we hearkened to Washington's advice in the most decisive hour in the history of our people, there might have been no declaration of independence in 1948.

In 1956, Israel took military action to put an end to continuing incursions and attacks from Sinai and the Gaza Strip against the people of Israel and its territory. Israel was allied in this operation with Britain and France, which were smarting under Gamal Abdul Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal. The United States, in one of the strangest alliances of the time (those were days of invasion and rape of Hungary by the Soviet Union), joined hands with the Soviet Union to force two NATO members — Britain and France — and Israel to withdraw unconditionally from Egyptian territory and Gaza.

Under the pressure of Soviet menaces and the threat of American sanctions, Israel, preceded by Britain and France, had no choice but to comply. Moscow rejoiced in a victory over America's allies. Washington realized its mistake and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles later admitted it, alas too late to remedy it.

IN 1967, Egypt's Nasser unleashed against Israel a chain of war acts closing the Straits of Tiran, expelling the United Nations Emergency Force from Sinai and Gaza, and moving his armies to the Israeli border. The United Nations were powerless, the maritime powers were helpless.

Israel felt that it must react in self-defence. From Paris, London and Washington, however, came counsel to seek a diplomatic solution. Two warnings were sent to the Israeli Government by President Lyndon Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk not to take military action. Israel showed restraint, but in the end decided to rely on its own judgment and to take its fate in its own hands.

The Six Day War brought about the beginning of the peace-making process in the Middle East.

In 1977, efforts to settle the Israel-Arab conflict were at a standstill. In a surprise move, the United States undertook in the joint communiqué of October 1 with the Soviet Union to make the latter a full partner in the search for a solution of the Middle East situation.

Israel reacted with dismay and criticism. For years it had been an established and well-known fact that Moscow strives to foment and perpetuate the Israeli-Arab confrontation in order to further its own interests in the region. Yet Israel was accused of adopting a negative and intransigent attitude.

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt was disappointed with Washington's attitude no less than was Israel. By then he had come to the conclusion that peace with Israel was essential for Egypt. The American-Soviet communiqué made him decide to launch his historic initiative without even consulting Washington. He flew to Jerusalem, to the astonishment of the United States government which, at first, even expressed consternation at Sadat's step.

The U.S. soon changed its attitude, however, and became an active participant in the negotiations that led to the Israel-Egypt peace treaty.

In recent months, as Israel once more became a target of Washington's displeasure and

criticism, those of us who remembered our differences with the United States in the past, sometimes on crucial issues, hoped that Washington will ultimately again see the light and change its erroneous course.

Such a change has now become imperative after the Arab blow to the Reagan initiative, if there is to be any hope of adding Lebanon to the framework of peace in the region and to resume the autonomy talks.

IN ORDER to bring this about there would have to be a modification of the United States' stand on at least some of the outstanding issues. □ Settlement of the Lebanese situation can no longer be considered as merely a matter of speedy withdrawal of the foreign forces and an adjunct of wooing Jordan into the peace-making process. Giving Lebanon a new lease of life and Israel a new partner in peaceful relations, deserves to be a goal in itself.

□ If the negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza are to be resumed, Camp David would have to serve as their basis. The more peace-making efforts become enmeshed in controversial proposals such as the Reagan and Fez plans, the less will be the chances of success.

□ If American, and not Soviet, interests are to be promoted in the Middle East, it would be essential that the PLO be shorn of its veto power over peace efforts, a power resulting in no small measure from Washington's ill-advised moves.

The hour has come for some real soul-searching in Washington. Let us hope that this time, in view of present developments, it will, in fact, take place.

The writer is chancellor of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and former ambassador to Moscow and the United Nations.

READERS' LETTERS

DIVORCE IN ISRAEL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I refer to Mendel Lewittes' book review of April 1, "Denied a remedy," about divorce in Israel.

According to the halacha, the rabbinical court can issue an order compelling the husband to grant a divorce on certain well-defined grounds, among them cruelty and/or mistreatment. If the husband refuses to comply, the civil law of the state empowers the rabbinical district court to request the legal adviser to the government to put the husband in jail for contempt of court until he grants the divorce.

My study of 20 years of published decisions of the rabbinical district courts shows that this remedy has rarely been used. No changes in halacha are needed and no great new interpretations are required. What is missing is a willingness to use the available and effective remedy.

RABBI STANLEY LEVIN
Petah Tikva.

Sir, — Mr. Lewittes' book review has caused despair to many people who telephoned me to ask whether the situation is as hopeless as his article implies. It certainly is not, and Mr. Lewittes' article only adds confusion to the existing problem.

Halacha is certainly not at fault. We of "Mitzvah" (Fairness to the Family in Court) have proven

through our many trained mediators around the country that a divorce can be obtained easily if the divorcing couples are properly advised and guided through halachic procedure.

The halacha permits divorcing couples to engage divorce lawyers or rabbinical pleaders, even though they may obtain a divorce without this particular service or disservice. However, some divorcing couples have a keen desire to destroy their spouses and so they use the divorce lawyers or the rabbinical pleaders as weapons to destroy rather than instruments of peace.

A divorcing couple can bring a mutually written agreement to the rabbinical court and the divorce will be processed without difficulty. This can be done without interference from any outsider. Can a divorce law be more liberal than that?

Many people obtain divorces the dignified Jewish way, but nobody ever hears about them, and that is the way it should be. We only hear about the ones who defy the law, either through ignorance, or through the commercial entry of the divorce lawyer or rabbinical pleader.

SYLVIA MANDELBAUM
Mitzvah
Netanya.

GARBAGE CONTAINERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — Today I took a walk in Sacher Park. Tin cans, pieces of paper, discarded cartons and, worst of all, pieces of broken bottles — a very real danger to children and animals alike — littered the whole area.

Up to and during Pessah, it was a joy to stroll there. The gardeners had worked hard and it was a pleasure to see the results of their labours.

Then came the Mimouna. The event itself was delightful and a great success. Everything was well arranged, except for one unfortunate omission. No one had made provision for the masses of garbage. The pathetically small red containers scattered around the park were woefully inadequate to take the rubbish. If large bins had been provided (together with notices asking a largely uncaring public to cooperate), perhaps the place would not be quite such an eyesore today.

It is useless to spend large amounts of money to advertise in the media in an attempt to educate the public unless proper receptacles are available for them for their garbage.

RUBY SHAMASH
Jerusalem.

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